UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

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Welcome visitors to the Bloor West Village Toronto Ukrainian Festival

Russia's plan for Ukraine

Purported leaked strategy document raises alarm

By Yevhen Solonyna

(RFE/RL)—It has long been known that Moscow is determined to prevent Ukraine from entering into an Association Agreement with the European Union.

And now, it seems, the Kremlin has a plan.

At least that's what many in Ukraine are thinking after the newspaper "Dzerkalo tyzhnia" published a 10-page document the paper claims was drafted by Moscow and its allies in Ukraine that outlines a multipronged effort to extend Russia's influence in the country.

Opinions vary on the authenticity of the document. But former Foreign Minister Volodymyr Ohryzko told RFE/RL's Ukrainian Service he had no doubt it reflects Moscow's intentions.

"You probably noted such words as 'coercion,' 'forcing,' and so on [in the document]. This has been the core of Russia's policy toward Ukraine for a long time," Ohryzko said. "This is nothing new — it is the continuation of the same imperialistic course.

"I hope this document will be read by as many Western diplomats in Ukraine as possible and that they will pass on the details to their capitals. Maybe it will help them reach the right conclusions and finally realize that there is a systematic ideological, political, economic, and information war being waged against Ukraine."

The paper lays out a plan for achieving three key goals: preventing Ukraine from signing an EU Association Agreement, creating an "influential network" of pro-Russian organizations capable of preventing the government from "undertaking actions that are not beneficial for Russia," and bringing Ukraine into the Russia-led Eurasian Customs Union and Single Economic Space by 2015.

The publication comes at a time of high tensions between the two countries. Russia recently conducted intense inspections of all goods crossing the border, saying it was rehearsing measures that would be implemented if Kyiv proceeds with the "suicidal" agreement with the EU (Kyiv announced on August 20 the checks had stopped). Moscow has also specifically targeted the Roshen candy factory, which is owned by pro-Western former Foreign Minister Petro Poroshenko.

The purported document states plainly that Ukrainian politician Viktor Medvedchuk and his Ukraine's Choice civic movement can play "a key role" in achieving its goals.

RFE/RL asked Medvedchuk directly whether he was involved in drafting the paper. He responded with a written statement criticizing the "yellow press" for publishing unverified documents.

"This is not the first time the yellow press has tried to connect my name with various scandalous stories. And publishing their fantasies under the guise of 'secret documents' citing unclear sources is a device that charlatans in the mass media have resorted to for centuries," Medvedchuk's statement said.

Although Medvedchuk's statement said nothing specifically about the published document or

Cont. on P. 5

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PHOTOS – UWC

Plenary session of the X Ukrainian World Congress in Lviv

X Ukrainian World Congress held in Lviv

At the Plenary session of the X Ukrainian World Congress in Lviv: Left top right: Zenon Potoczny (Toronto); Taras Podilsky (Edmonton); Roman Brytan (Edmonton).

(UWC)—The X Ukrainian World Congress was held August 20-22 in Lviv with the participation of 208 delegates representing 27 countries. The delegates were joined by 350 guests who travelled from around the world, including all regions of Ukraine, to participate in the proceedings and learn about the work of the UWC.

The X Ukrainian World Congress provided an opportunity for participants to share accomplishments, exchange ideas and develop plans for the further consolidation of the 20-million strong Ukrainian diaspora.

Among the guests were also representatives of Ukraine's governing authorities and leaders of the opposition.

The X Ukrainian World Congress, which was dedicated to the

Cont. on P. 8

PHOTO – 10:24 am Creations

Hutsul leap

Over 10,000 attended the celebration of the 22nd anniversary of Ukraine's independence at Toronto's Centennial Park, organized by the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, Aug. 24. Pictured above: The "Vesnianka" Ukrainian Dance Ensemble perform a Hutsul number. For more see pages 6 and 19 of this issue.

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Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

20 серпня у Львові X Світовий конгрес українців розпочався пішою ходою і панахидою за жертвами Голодомору. У львівській опері під час офіційного відкриття конгресу представники світового українства оцінили політичну ситуацію в Україні і послухали українських опозиціонерів.

Під час вшанування пам'яті жертв Голодомору, що відбулося біля пам'ятника Шевченкові у Львові, Світовий конгрес закликав українців приїхати 23 листопада у Київ і разом з усією Україною належно вшанувати мільйони невинних жертв голоду 1932-1933 років. Завдяки старанням української діаспори у шістнадцяти країнах світу Голодомор визнано геноцидом. Темі Великого голоду в Україні буде присвячено окремий круглий стіл у рамках Світового конгресу.

ФОТО — ГАЛИНА ТЕРЕЩУК

Євген Чолій

А ось офіційне відкриття ювілейного зібрання українців світу відбулось у львівській опері, і головною темою була політична ситуація в Україні і її європейські перспективи.

Президент Світового конгресу українців Євген Чолій наголосив, що влада України обрала авторитарні методи правління, провладні політики дотримуються проросійського курсу розвитку України, а це повернення у Радянський Союз.

«Євразійський союз – це повернення до радянського минулого. Українська діаспора закликатиме Європу засудити тиск і шантаж Росії щодо України, зокрема блокування імпорту українських товарів. Саме від влади залежить, чи буде підписана угода про асоціацію між Україною та ЄС, а тому закликаємо владу повернутись до демократичних методів, щоб не втратити шанс, бо тоді доведеться відповідати перед українським народом. Найголовнішою вимогою є звільнення Юлії Тимошенко та припинення вибіркового правосуддя в Україні», – наголосив Чолій.

Торік представники української діаспори переслали рідним понад 7,5 мільярдів доларів. Вони вважають себе, а не українських олігархів, які переводять гроші в офшори, найбільшим інвестором України.

Найбільш емоційно учасники Світового конгресу реагували, коли мова йшла про європейські перспективи України. Віце-прем'єр Олександр Вілкул оприлюднив привітання президента учасникам X Світового конгресу українців, яке супроводжувалось поодинокими вигуками «Ганьба!», але слова про те, що українська влада обрала європейський шлях України, зустріли оплесками.

Політичних градусів у Львівській опері додали й опозиційні політики Арсеній Яценюк, Олег Тягнибок, Віталій Кличко, Юрій Луценко. Зарубіжні українці почули лист Юлії Тимошенко, яка, за словами Арсенія Яценюка, буде кандидатом на президента від партії «Батьківщина».

Своїми планами на 2015 рік поділився і Віталій Кличко.

«Я цілком відповідально розглядаю можливість балотуватись на посаду президента України, але лише після консультацій із громадськістю. Має бути один кандидат від опозиції і два критерії: цілковита підтримка громадськості і максимальні шанси виграти у Віктора Януковича», – заявив Кличко, який розпочинає поїздку країною, щоб з'ясувати, які проблеми нині турбують громадськість, і визначити стратегічний план розвитку держави.

Тим часом Олег Тягнибок на конгресі критикував чинну владу, а ось про президентські амбіції вже не обмовився й словом. Хоча у коментарі журналістам сказав, що ВО «Свобода» брала участь у всіх виборах і 2015 рік не буде винятком. Свободівець наголосив Радіо Свобода, що «жодних компромісів з бандитською владою бути не може», і українській діаспорі важливо усвідомити ситуацію, в якій країні сьогодні живуть українці. Українська діаспора, за словами Тягнибока, не повинна загравати зі владою, яка зруйнувала демократичні засади.

«Ми очікуємо перед президентськими виборами розуміння і підтримку української діаспори, коли наші вельможні пани їздять на Захід і розповідають всякі нісенітниці про розвиток України. Добре було б, якби діаспора активніше брала участь в акціях протесту. У майбутньому дуже важлива кадрова підтримка світового українства для спільної справи», – каже Тягнибок.

У реакції учасників Світового конгресу українців на виступи політиків було помітно деяку стриманість. Хоча найбільш емоційно сприйняли виступ Юрія Луценка, який говорив про те, що політикам не потрібно розповідати діаспорі, як діяти в Україні, а варто послухати світове українство.

«Україна сьогодні – це радянський барак, перефарбований у синьо-жовтий колір. На такому фундаменті не збудуєш Україну. Битва за Україну не зводиться до персоналій, а до того, яким буде цей фундамент. А він має бути правовий, де панує людська гідність. Задля європейського майбутнього України, підписання угоди про асоціацію ми змушені з цією владою, яка є, співпрацювати», – зазначив Юрій Луценко, наголосивши, що він цілковито не підтримує політики Януковича.

Зарубіжні українці хочуть бути посередниками України у світі і головне для них – бачити Україну у європейській спільноті. 21 серпня на конгресі обговорюватимуть питання євроінтеграції України і те, якою може бути роль діаспори у цих процесах.

Найкращі побажання усім хто святкують проголошення незалежності України!

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Dr. Gauk receives long-promised Ukraine medal

Dr. Ehor Gauk displays his medals

(UkrNews)—It took almost two decades, but the long promised Ukrainian medal finally arrived in Dr. Ehor Gauk's hands last month.

The original idea of presenting the Edmonton pediatric neurologist and University of Alberta professor with a medal for his contributions to the OSVITA Medical Program, under which thousands of Ukrainian doctors were educated by Canadian doctors in child and maternal care, was first raised by Ukraine`s second President, Leonid Kuchma, in 1995.

It wasn't officially announced until August 23, 2011 when, under a decree by current President Viktor Yanukovych, he was awarded the medal "For Work and Victory" («За працю і звитягу»). Since logistical problems arose as to a personal presentation, Ukraine's Embassy in Canada finally decided to courier it.

He can add it to his collections of medals he has received over the years, including Canada's Meritorious Service Medal (Civilian Division), the Alberta Centennial Medal and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress' Taras Shevchenko Medal.

"I need this medal like a need a hole in the head," says Dr. Gauk, explaining had it come earlier it could have helped the program.

"When the program was active, whenever we had recognition it would improve our fundraising. We never had a fundraising program. People just knew that we were doing something in Ukraine and the money just flowed in."

Osvita was founded in 1992 as a joint project between the University of Alberta and the federal government's Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) as part of the assistance to children victimized by the Chornobyl disaster of 1986.

"We were there to share information about maternal and child health," explains Dr, Gauk.

"It started out as children but you can't have a healthy child unless you have a healthy mother. So it was expanded to include mothers and children which was largely pediatricians obstetricians and gynecologists working together."

Through the ten-year active period of Osvita 103 Canadian doctors went to Ukraine, on a purely voluntary basis, and taught thousands of doctors there.

Although most of the doctors came from Alberta, all 16 medical schools in Canada participated.

As well 80 doctors from Ukraine came to Canada. Some even stayed.

"Initially I was very angry with them because we trained them and Ukraine needed their help but most of the ones who stayed went back, then found it was impossible to work in that environment," says Dr. Gauk.

The Osvita project became unique among CIDA projects in that it raised many funds on its own, allowing it to expand what they set out to do by a factor of two.

"We were a thorn in the side of CIDA because we were so different," says Dr. Gauk.

Dr. Gauk was born and raised in Saskatchewan, earned his medical degree from the University of Manitoba and first came to Alberta in 1958 as a junior intern at the University of Alberta Hospital.

He then completed a residency at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago, Illinois and studied pediatric neurology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and clinical neurology and neuropathology at the National Hospital in London, England.

In 1964 Dr. Gauk returned to Edmonton as a consultant pediatric neurologist at the Baker Clinic, and remained until 1972.

He worked as an attending physician at the Royal Alexandra, University of Alberta and Glenrose Hospitals and as a consulting physician at the Misericordia and Edmonton General Hospitals and W.W. Cross Cancer Institute.

Dr. Gauk has taught at the University of Alberta since 1964 and in 2000 was appointed professor emeritus of Pediatrics and Neurology.

Asked how he would rate the success of Osvita in retrospect, Dr. Gauk replied:

"It will be rated purely as function of time but time has now gone by and I'm very pleased with what we've accomplished there in that I still keep touch with Ukraine on almost a daily basis."

Celebrating the 22nd Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence.

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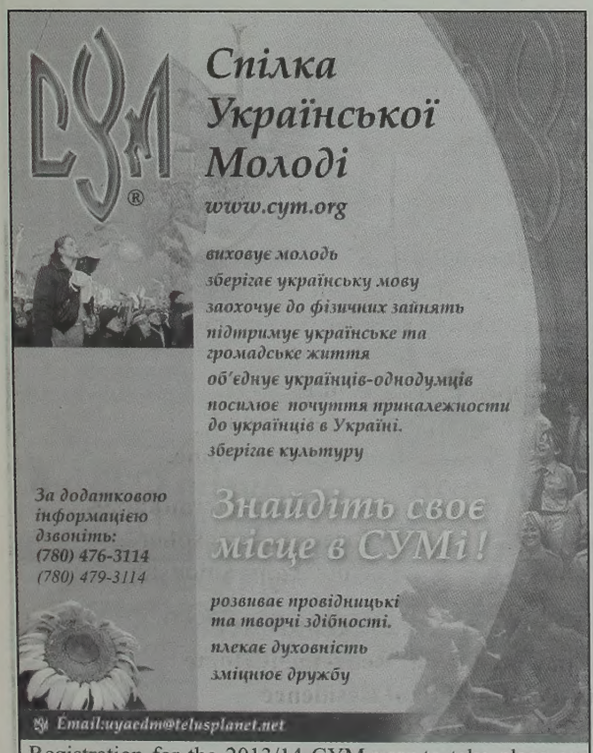

Registration for the 2013/14 CYM year to take place on Wednesday, Sept 11, 6:30 -8:00 PM at Dim Molodi at 9615-153 Avenue. Open for children and youth ages 4 & up. For further information, please contact Taras Podilsky at 780-479-3114 or bulba@telusplanet.net. *Hartuis!*

Діаспора – найкращий посол України у світі – Євген Чолій

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Українська діаспора бачить Україну лише у європейській спільноті, бо вважає, що Євразійський союз загрожує поверненню у радянське минуле, заявив в інтерв'ю Радіо Свобода президент Світового конгресу українців Євген Чолій. Як оцінює пан Чолій нинішню політичну ситуацію в Україні, чи не стане вона причиною непідписання восени цього року угоди про асоціацію між Україною та Європейським Союзом? Чи використовує влада України потенціал зарубіжного українства? Про це – розмова з Євгеном Чолієм.

– Пане Чолій, нині чимало українців побоюються говорити відкрито і правдиво про ситуацію в Україні десь зі страху втратити працю, а, можливо, тому, що просто почуваються розчарованими і байдужими до подій у власній державі. Світове українство може собі дозволити не загравати з українською владою і оцінити реально ситуацію? Якою є Ваша оцінка?

– Ми не боїмося говорити правду і багато людей в Україні теж правдиво оцінюють ситуацію. Ми переживаємо за те, що сьогоднішні владні структури повертаються з демократичного до більш авторитарного способу правління, це виявляється у тиску на ЗМІ, на різні громадські організації. Ми не лише вболіваємо за події в Україні, бо можна лише цим вболіванням обмежитись, але на всіх міжнародних зустрічах говоримо про Україну і її проблеми, закликаємо Європейський Союз і низку західних інституцій не ігнорувати Україну і ту ситуацію, в якій вона опинилась, щоб закликали українську владу повернутись до демократичних засад, закликатимемо Європу захистити Україну від тиску і шантажу Росії, що робиться зумисно, щоб зірвати підписання угоди про асоціацію між Україною і ЄС.

– Однією з головних тем X Світового конгресу українців є тема євроінтеграції України як запоруки незалежності України. Які Ваші аргументи на користь європейського шляху України?

– Європейський Союз дає більший доступ Україні до ринку, дасть можливість для процвітання української економіки, доступ до партнерів, які є в ЄС, які керуються демократичними засадами. Для України європейські цінності ближчі, Європа – це природне місце України, а не Євразійський союз, куди тягне Україну Росія, бо це – повернення у радянське минуле. Сучасна Україна є європейською державою. Для останніх трьох років для української влади, радше – влади України, характерна проросійська позиція. Це бачимо з підписання Харківської угоди, коли продовжили термін перебування у Криму імперського війська; закон про засади мовної політики, що, по суті, робить російську другою державною мовою; ганебне встановлення пам'ятників Сталіну, кату українського народу, в містах і селах; вивищення православної церкви Московського патріархату. Світовий конгрес вважає, що якнайшвидша інтеграція України в Європу стане запорукою незалежності держави, яка сьогодні є під загрозою, допоможе встановити більш збалансовані відносини з Росією.

– Протягом століття українській діаспорі вдається зберігати українську культуру, традиції, історію, те, що у радянський період нищилось в Україні. Які сьогодні завдання ставить перед собою українська діаспора? Чи не вважаєте, що на часі змінити формат роботи і ставлення до України?

– Асиміляційні процеси діють постійно, але ми не можемо змінювати свій курс, бо маємо працювати, щоб мої діти і внуки також зберігали українську ідентичність, це важкий процес і над цим треба працювати. Це найголовніше завдання для українців, які живуть за межами України. Нам важливо покращувати громадське життя зарубіжних українців. Ми маємо зрозуміти, яка правдива сила світового українства, як вона змобілізована, які може дати результати спільна праця.

– В Україні не знають української діаспори. Бодай з огляду на те, що, за дослідженнями, більше ніж 70% громадян України ніколи не виїжджали за кордон. До того ж, досі живі радянські міфи про зарубіжних українців. Чи не гадаєте, що і влада України нині не зацікавлена у співпраці з українською діаспорою, а, навпаки, їй вигідне негативне уявлення про світове українство в українському суспільстві?

– Я не знаю, до якої міри влада України задумується над такими питаннями взагалі. Влада не зацікавлена українською діаспорою, і ми бачимо це постійно і скрізь (президент і прем'єр не беруть участь у X Світовому конгресі українців – ред.). Коли порівнювати, як інші держави займаються своїми діаспорами, то побачимо величезну різницю. Щодо іміджу, то діаспора здатна сама про нього подбати, щоб він був на відповідному рівні – як у країнах, де живуть українці, так і в самій Україні. Ми очікуємо, якщо ситуація в Україні буде більш нормальною, то українська влада підтримуватиме світове українство, як це роблять інші країни, які сприяють збереженню ідентичності свого народу.

– Говорять про 20 мільйонів українців у світі, але якщо врахувати і українських заробітчан, то значно більше українців по світах, ніж проживають на рідній землі. Що втрачає Україна, пане Чолій, не використовуючи потенціал зарубіжного українства? Жодна влада за роки незалежності не була зацікавлена у фахових кадрах з української діаспори.

– Ми на цьому конгресі зосередимось на питанні євроінтеграції України. Ми часто паралельно працюємо. Представники Світового конгресу українців виступають у Європейському парламенті, інших міжнародних структурах, і значно результативнішою була б праця, якби ми працювали разом. Україна втрачає у тому, що українська діаспора є фактично її найкращим послом у світі, але цього влада не розуміє. Лише наведу приклад: визнання українського Голодомору геноцидом українського народу відбулось 16 країнами світу і сталося це завдяки співпраці влади за Віктора Ющенка та української діаспори. Такі приклади показують, що більший результат лише тоді, коли є плідна співпраця, а такого сьогодні немає.

– Триває нова хвиля міграції з України. Статистика досить тривожна – більше половини української молоді готові виїхати за кордон на постійно. Чи не лякає Вас така ситуація, чи Світовий конгрес знає настрої серед нових мігрантів?

– Я пережив цікавий момент, коли спеціально відвідав найновішу хвилю міграції в Італії, Іспанії, Португалії, Греції. Мене здивувало те, що я почув від них, що вони відмінні від емігрантів, які виїхали після Другої світової війни чи таких як я, що народився в Канаді. Вони знають, що у наших планах немає наміру повернутись в Україну, хоч ми і сприяємо інтересам України. Натомість нові мігранти живуть думкою про повернення в Україну при кращій ситуації у державі. Вони знають, що за кордоном вони перебувають тимчасово, живуть сподіваннями. Якби ситуація в Україні була такою, що сприяла б розвитку молодої родини економічно, коли б люди працювали і мали за свою працю належну оплату, коли б шанувалась гідність людини, європейські цінності, демократичні засади, дотримувались права людини, то багато українців з нової хвилі міграції повернулись.

– Але українці кажуть, немає нічого більш постійного, як тимчасовість. З іншого боку, якщо у Європі буде важко знайти працю чи зменшаться суттєво заробітки, то чимало трудових мігрантів, можливо, і повернуться. Хоча, сьогодні цього не помітно, бо якби не було важко, люди з усіх сил стараються залишитися за кордоном… Але уявімо, що якби повертались, то це вже прийдуть інші люди, з іншими вимогами до життя і влади. Чи зможуть вони змінити ситуацію в Україні, впливати на розвиток країни?

– Я маю велику надію на українців, які тут живуть, думаю, що попри розчарованість, що вони не бачать змін у країні, серйозної альтернативи, яка може запровадити конкретні зміни в суспільстві, українці змобілізуються в Україні і вимагатимуть від влади і політиків шанувати людські права і основні демократичні засади.

Russia's plan for Ukraine

Cont. from P. 1

his alleged role in creating it, it did affirm his support for Ukraine's membership in the Russian-led customs union and asserted that his activity and the activity of Ukraine's Choice is "completely open."

The controversy casts a spotlight on the position of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych, who was widely viewed as a pro-Russian figure when he took office in 2010 on promises of improving relations with Moscow.

However, Yanukovych has since publicly followed a pro-European line, and Ukraine has been one of the success stories of the EU's Eastern Partnership Program. Kyiv has already initialed an Association Agreement and a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA) with Brussels and those documents could be finalized at the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius in November.

(Kyiv's relations with Brussels, however, have been complicated by the jailing of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in a case widely seen as politically motivated.)

Yanukovych has pursued his pro-European policy by relying on a carefully balanced political power base comprising the pro-Russian business interests that helped bring him to power, the pro-Western business interests that have been attracted by his Europe-oriented policies, and a growing cadre of bureaucrats and top managers who have been installed since he took office and who owe their positions to him.

The purported Russian document has led some analysts to conclude that Moscow is looking beyond November, toward the Ukrainian presidential election in 2015 and parliamentary elections in 2017.

But can Medvedchuk, 59, accomplish the plan's goals? He served as chief of staff under Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and has been accused of using state resources to promote Yanukovych's unsuccessful 2004 presidential bid. He denies those allegations and in recent months his Ukraine's Choice movement has been highly critical of Yanukovych.

Putin and the wife of Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev are the godparents of Medvedchuk's daughter. During Putin's recent visit to Ukraine to mark the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan Rus, Putin spent far more time with Medvedchuk than with Yanukovych. And recently, Medvedchuk was photographed attending a sports event in Sochi together with Putin, Medvedev, and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev.

He has played influential behind-the-scenes roles in Ukraine for years, but he has little public support. Although Putin personally has high popularity ratings in eastern Ukraine, his endorsement is unlikely to boost Medvedchuk, says Kyiv-based analyst Kost Bondarenko.

"Even if Putin appeared with Medvedchuk in eastern Ukraine tomorrow and called on people to vote for him — Putin's own rating in those regions is about 25 percent — it would not mean that Mevedchuk's popularity would rise," Bondarenko says. "He'd get maybe 3 or 4 percent. Russia can play as much as it wants, but its games have little effect in Ukraine, as previous election campaigns have shown."

Political analyst Taras Berezovets agrees that even with the considerable financial backing of the Kremlin, Medvedchuk would not be able to compete with Yanukovych. At best, Berezovets says, Medvedchuk might play the spoiler, weakening Yanukovych by draining off pro-Russian votes.

"The statements in support of Viktor Medvedchuk that Putin has already been making can help boost his rating to a certain extent," Berezovets says. "But paradoxically, the historical mission of Medvedchuk might be to prevent Viktor Yanukovych from being elected to a second term."

Robert Coalson contributed to this report from Prague

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Opposition pledges cooperation with government on association

By Katya Gorchinskaya, Kyiv Post

Ukraine's opposition leaders pledged their support to the government in approval of key legislation needed to sign an Association Agreement with the European Union in November.

"The Ukrainian opposition stands ready to cooperate in order to pass the needed legislation. We believe that this treaty is urgent, important and this is the only way how Ukraine can be really independent," Arseniy Yatseniuk, leader of Batkivshchyna party said at a briefing in Brussels on Aug. 28.

Yatseniuk, as well as leader of Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform (UDAR) party Vitali Klitschko, took part in a session of the European Parliament's foreign commission hosted by German Elmar Brok. Ukraine's recent trade war with Russia and the progress in signing the Association Agreement were on the session's agenda.

On the same day, Chief of the National Security Council Andriy Klyuev, who is in charge of the process of European integration in the Ukrainian government, visited Brussels to discuss the same issues with Stefan Fuele, the EU commissioner for Enlargement.

Ukraine has to address three key issues to be able to sign AA with EU on Nov. 27. These include selective persecution and particularly the release of Yulia Tymoshenko from prison, reform of the prosecution and electoral reform.

Both Brok and Fuele noted certain progress in some of the areas, but insisted that Ukraine is expected to press on with the agenda in the next two months. In particular, Ukraine's government has submitted a draft law on the functioning of prosecution office for examination to the Venice Commission, the European Council's advisory body, composed of independent experts in the field of constitutional law.

Also, Ukraine's justice ministry has held a number of round tables on improving the electoral legislation, which was also noted by the European partners. Fuele, however, said it was not enough and that "the EU expects to see unequivocal and concrete elements of progress in the coming weeks."

"I have emphasized to Mr Klyuyev the need to ensure determined action and tangible progress on all the benchmarks set out in the December Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) conclusions," Fuele said.

Klitschko, like Yatseniuk, reiterated his party's willingness to cooperate. "Our first priority is to sign an Association Agreement in Vilnius," he said.

UDAR and Batkivchshyna together hold 134 seats in parliament. Combined with the ruling Party of Regions' 207 votes, it would be more than enough to approve pro-European legislation in the 450-seat parliament.

Brok, said that if Ukraine makes progress on its commitments, Europe will be quite happy to sign the deal with Ukraine, which would be unprecedented for its depth of intergeneration with Europe for a non-member nation.

"We will support a signature in Brussels, and we will ratify it afterwards quite fast if the Ukrainian government made it possible for us to sign," Brok said.

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Don't punish the people for the crimes of the regime

The Ukrainian World Congress has set out with a concerted campaign to promote Ukraine's Euro-integration ahead of the Eastern Partnership summit in Vilnius in November, where the signing of the a treaty on association and free trade between Ukraine and the European Union is to be considered.

April 22-25 Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) President Eugene Czolij met with high-ranking officials of the Council of Europe during a four-day visit to Strasbourg, France, to discuss the importance of moving forward Ukraine's Euro-integration.

This took place right after the UWC held its congress in Lviv where delegates were asked to pass on a message to their governments to think about the future of Ukraine and its people, rather than the current regime when considering whether to sign an association agreement with Ukraine.

The argument has considerable merit and has prompted many observers, including this newspaper, to reconsider their earlier positions.

It had been hoped that by using the association agreement as a lever, the European Union and other Western democracies could force the Yanukovych regime to free political prisoners like Yulia Tymoshenko, reform its selective use of justice and reverse the trend to authoritarianism.

Yanukovych, in turn, has remained extremely pigheaded and obstinate, although he may yet bend with the wind a bit before November. Let's hope and pray that some common sense will finally get drilled into his vindictive mind.

But what has really changed the situation in the most recent weeks is the ruthless campaign of intimidation that Russia's Vladimir Putin has initiated with the intention of preventing such an agreement from being signed so that Moscow can pull Kyiv even more firmly into its orbit.

First came the trade sanctions aimed at crippling Ukraine's economy an issuing a stark warning as to what could happen should Ukraine decide to move closer to the West. Then the newspaper "Dzerkalo tyzhnia" published a 10-page document the paper claims was drafted by Moscow and its allies in Ukraine that outlines a multipronged effort to extend Russia's influence in the country.

The Russian threat is very real. And what is becoming more and more apparent is that scuttling theEU-Ukraine agreement because of the Yanukovych regime's continuous assault on human rights would most likely drive Ukraine even further into dictatorship.

The fact is that with an association agreement, the EU will continue to have some leverage in encouraging the democratic development of Ukraine. And it should use that leverage to its full extent. The best way to use such leverage would be to apply it in a very selective manner which will hurt the corrupt ruling elite rather than the people as a whole.

But should Ukraine fall completely under Moscow's grip such leverage will be gone – and with it – any hope for democratization in Ukraine.

What's more, Ukraine now stands at a critical geopolitical threshold. A new Cold War is beginning. Russia and the West are heading for more confrontation, one of the most critical areas of contention being Moscow's staunch support of the Assad regime in Syria which, western countries conclusively agree, has used chemical weapons against its own citizens.

For all the above reasons the signing of an association agreement with Ukraine now becomes imperative. And the UWC's rationale makes considerable sense with the new developments.

Yes, the West must continue to pressure the Yanukovych regime to reverse its slide into dictatorship. But tactical means to do so should be aimed at the elite. We should not punish the people for the crimes of the regime.

Russia's trade war against Ukraine will backfire

By Alexander J. Motyl

Stupidly, if not unexpectedly, the Putin regime has declared a trade war on Ukraine in order to force it to turn away from an Association Agreement with the European Union and, instead, join the Customs Union consisting of Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. The war will be painful for Ukraine, but its expected effect is highly unlikely to happen, demonstrating, once again, just how little Russia's elites understand Ukraine and Ukrainians.

On August 14th, Ukrainian exports to its northern neighbor came to a halt after Russian authorities imposed onerous border procedures on vehicles transporting Ukrainian goods. Since 25 percent of Ukraine's exports go to Russia, a prolonged blockade could cost Ukraine as much as $2.5 billion in 2013. The Kremlin (which, as a recently leaked document appears to suggest, apparently has developed a ramified neo-imperialist strategy vis-à-vis Ukraine) obviously expects these numbers to persuade the Yanukovych regime that the Customs Union is its least worst option.

That expectation is misplaced for several reasons.

First, the Yanukovych regime has amply demonstrated in the last three years that the well-being of Ukrainians is the least of its concerns. Ukrainian living standards could drop catastrophically as a result of Moscow's actions, and President Yanukovych and his entourage wouldn't lose a wink of sleep.

Second, since the Yanukovych regime's number-one priority is its own well-being, Russia's trade war, inasmuch as it erodes some of that well-being, will only lead Yanukovych, his Family network, and their many cronies to view their erstwhile ally with mistrust, suspicion, and disdain. The very last thing they'll now want to do is join the Customs Union and thereby put themselves and their wealth in a position of permanent dependence on Moscow's whims.

Third, Yanukovych and the Regionnaires pride themselves on being tough. Some, like the president himself, have a criminal background; others, like the pogromchiks who periodically attack the democrats with fists, are just street thugs; all of them refuse to be bullied and pushed around. Like American mafiosi, they want, above all, respect. The Kremlin's obvious belief that it can treat the Yanukovych regime as a bunch of lily-livered punks is the ultimate insult to the "goodfellas" running Ukraine.

Fourth, Ukrainians are tired of being pushed around — by their own government and by outsiders. Even though the vast majority of the population (in both east and west) views Russians quite positively, they resent being treated as second-class citizens, younger brothers, Little Russians, uncivilized savages, and the like. Part of that resentment has been directed at the hypocrisy of the European Union's effort to make travel for ordinary Ukrainians so difficult while simultaneously insisting on Ukraine's adherence to EU norms. Much of that resentment will now be redirected toward the Putin regime, whose punitive economic measures are obviously intended to affect Ukrainians' already fragile lives.

Fifth, Ukrainians appear to be increasingly committed to the integrity and viability of their own state. According to a recent study conducted by the Ukrainian Institute of Social Research and the Social Monitoring Center, 61 percent of Ukrainians would vote for independence in a referendum today. That may not seem like much, until one considers that the number was 56 percent in 2001, when the Ukrainian economy began to recover from a decade-long depression, and 47 percent in 2011, after five years of Orange mismanagement. No less significantly, opponents of independence comprised 28 percent in 2001 and 2011, and 21 percent in 2013. Another survey, by the "Rating" Sociological Research Group, indicates that a surprisingly high 46 percent say they'd defend Ukraine with arms. Clearly, three years of Regionnaire mismanagement have led Ukrainians to value what they still have: a country. If so, then Russia's neo-imperialist aspirations and inability to acknowledge Ukraine's difference will only stiffen their resolve to remain independent — and outside the Customs Union. As one Russian-speaking Ukrainian commentator wrote: "If you have enemies, that's bad. If those enemies are idiots, that's good."

Take all these factors together and you may conclude that President Yanukovych will soon discover his "deep" and "unwavering" love of Ukraine and wrap himself in the Ukrainian flag. As a pro-Russian stance can appeal to no more than 21 percent of the population and, more important, undermine his Family's wealth, what else is there to do but turn toward one's people and claim to be their national champion? As Samuel Johnson said in 1775, "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." Who knows? Perhaps Europe will turn out to be the last refuge of Ukrainian scoundrels.

We need to ensure Ukraine's future

Speech by Oksana Rewa, President, Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Toronto Branch at Toronto's Independence Day celebrations, August 24, 2013

On this day, August 24th, 2013, the worldwide Ukrainian community is marking major milestones in Ukraine's history, celebrating: the 22nd anniversary of Ukraine's independence, the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan Rus, and commemorating the 80th anniversary of the genocide Holodomor.

Over the past 22 years the Ukrainian nation has achieved some successes.

Yet as we distinctly understood in 1991, and still appreciate today, the road to democracy is not an easy one. We must not overlook the current backsliding of democratic principles in Ukraine. Most importantly Ukraine's national identity and consciousness has been threatened, with the new language laws of last year, the historical and cultural untruths taught to youth at schools and further promoted internally within Ukraine, and the soft propagation of fabricated lies internationally. It is time, historians wrote the true history of Ukraine, not one that is based on falsifications of the 18th century Moscovite "all-chronicle", but be inclusive of the historical facts set forth in the documents, from countries such as Poland, Turkey, Greece, Iran and others. People must know the truth.

Paraphrasing an article in very recent publication of the international journal The Economist:

On a visit to Kyiv on July 27th of this year, Patriarch Kirill I of the Russian Orthodox Church and Vladimir Putin, celebrating the 1,025th anniversary of the baptism of Kyivan Rus, both sent a clear message to Ukraine not to stray from the common space of the Russian-Orthodox civilization. They promoted the ideological concept of the *Russkiy Mir*, or Russian World, which places Moscow at the center. Patriarch Kirill I, the movement's unofficial leader, believes that the three eastern Slavic states, Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine must maintain spiritual and cultural unity under the Russian Orthodox Church. Ukraine is critical to the project's success. Many Ukrainians see this as yet another Muscovite attempt to steal parts of their culture and stamp out the rest, while destroying Ukraine's sovereignty. Members of the Russian delegation wore badges celebrating the Baptism of Rus, with the word "Kyivan" omitted. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyiv Patriarchate Filiaret was not invited to the events even though he has the largest religious following in Ukraine.

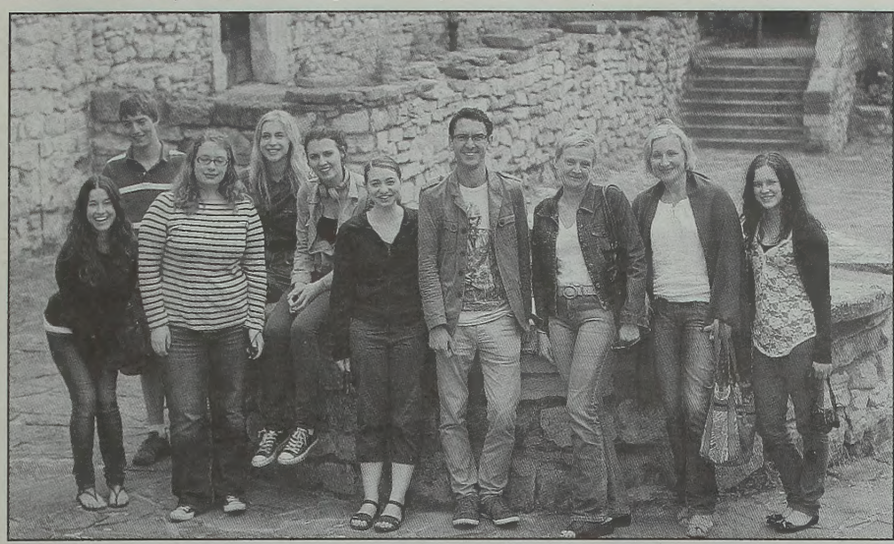
This year 2013, the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Holodomor Famine-Genocide cannot be just march of remembrance. It has to be a resurrection of memory of the victims, the clearing of lies, and the cleansing of Ukraine. We as Canadians need to carefully look for, find, and keep the facts of each victim of the Holodomor and establish national memorials to them. If the Canadian Museum for Human Rights is to become world-class institute, there, the truth of the Holodomor has to be stated loud and clear. Ukraine has experienced a tragedy of global proportions. People need to know the truth. The Bible says, "And you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32). We hope that the knowledge of the Holodomor will help humanity to avoid similar tragedies in the future.

Ukrainians have overcome the threat of total destruction. Ukraine was the reborn, 22 years ago. There is new high calling before us and it is to renew the life and consciousness of Ukraine as a healthy and life-affirming nation that embraces all the Ukrainian people regardless of their beliefs, place of birth or religion. As a strong Ukrainian Canadian community, we need to ensure Ukraine's future, the rights of her people, her language and culture, a democratic constitution, freedom, love each other, love of country, and our common destiny.

This afternoon allow me to humbly bow my head with respect and gratitude to all who have helped Ukraine pursue the righteous road in quest of truth, honour and freedom.

Слава Україні!

Живи Україно, - бо в тобі ми живимо!



Participants of the 2012 "Ukrainian Through its Living Culture" study abroad course in L'viv

Ukrainian university programs face cuts

New scholarships offered to students

By Alla Nedashkivska

It is with sincere regret that we face the recent cut of the BA Major in Ukrainian at the University of Alberta, in both streams: Ukrainian Culture, Language and Literature, and Ukrainian Folklore. The cut is a result of recent funding rollbacks to post-secondary institutions made by Alberta's ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education.

One of 20 Arts programs targeted, the Ukrainian Culture, Language and Literature stream has been sighted as not supporting a sufficient number of students taking it as their Major. The cuts have also been made in the name of focusing more on job specific programs, relevant to certain gaps in today's labour market.

Such an approach is very short-sighted and lacks an understanding of the role of small, specialized classes and programs in our students' education, as well as the broader economy.

Small classrooms are not the bane of economically effective learning; they are where students receive the best mentoring, the most focused learning, and the greatest stimulus to try new ideas via debate, peer support, and direct instructor feedback.

The Ukrainian Culture, Language and Literature program has been able to offer all of these. If we lose this we limit the future generation's ability to learn adult level Ukrainian language for professional interaction.

The program offers so much more than what has traditionally been viewed as learning Ukrainian. It offers intensive language learning and real modern-day interaction, it promotes business training, stimulates debate about linguistic issues in a vibrant living culture, and offers literary analysis of modern authors with which our youth can identify.

Smaller class sizes ensure real learning, unlike stadium style classrooms where the allure of one's smartphone so easily complements the realities of anonymity. Granted, every type of learning has a role, even the giant classroom. But one must never forget the need for the specialized, the unique, the small.

Our graduates, who know how to think and hold unique sets of knowledge, do not stunt our economic diversification, they drive it.

Ironically, the ministry of Enterprise and Advanced Education clearly states as a goal "developing graduates with the international and intercultural competencies to live and work effectively within this complex and interdependent world". This worthy goal will be reduced if students can only pursue a very limited number of "popular" languages.

It also fails to recognize that most students learn foreign languages to complement their Major studies. Foreign languages are valuable add-ons, even if few take them as their sole Majors. Cutting the Ukrainian Major is only likely to limit this enriching phenomenon.

It is an error to assume that just because today a job tied directly to a field of study may not be readily apparent, that such a field is unworthy of study.

Learning Ukrainian language, literature and culture goes far beyond just serving the Ukrainian community in Canada. It broadens a young adult's field of opportunity, it opens doors internationally, it trains graduates to think; all this while gaining a unique knowledge set that an arts student should not lack.

Graduates from our program have gone on to jobs as diplomats, teachers, business people, professors, working in fields such as advertising, law enforcement, and even as doctors, lawyers and engineers. And they are all able to communicate in another language.

The first Ukrainian language courses at the University of Alberta were introduced in the 1960s. The full-fledged Ukrainian Folklore program began in 1970s. These opportunities, complemented by research activities of CIUS, are unique in North America. The loss of such a program would be a travesty.

Within this bad news, however, we must continue to remain hopeful. Reinvigorating the possibility of having Ukrainian as a Major in some form is still possible. Members of our faculty are taking on additional teaching loads to maintain the program's choices, quality of learning, and promoting interest among today's youth.

The Minor in Ukrainian remains. Language study at the first, second and third year levels is still being offered. Various courses in both classic and contemporary Ukrainian literature and folklore continue to take place. We even expect some specialized courses such as History of Ukrainian Translation and Issues in Slavic Linguistics to remain available to students.

And the "Ukrainian Through its Living Culture" study abroad course in L'viv is slated to take place in the summer of 2014. This initiative has been a huge success and is popular among students. It serves as a key draw to our program, as students want to learn modern Ukrainian language in its vibrant and living context.

As a further step the Alberta Foundation for Ukrainian Education Society and the Alberta Ukrainian Commemorative Society have supported a new scholarship program for 2013/2014. The "Ukrainian Language Achievement Scholarship" will be awarded to the best 12 students completing each of the full-year sequences of Ukrainian language at the University of Alberta (UKR 111-112, UKR 211-212, or UKR 303-304). Successful applicants will receive a $500 scholarship to aid in their tuition payments. For more information check the Ukrainian Culture, Language and Literature Program Website: <www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/ukraina/>.

Despite the challenges our program remains faithful to the teaching and mentorship services we provide students. The Ukrainian program looks at these latest challenges with renewed resolve. Our program will endure, our students will be successful, and Ukrainian studies will continue to be offered to future generations.

Dr. Alla Nedashkivska is Associate Professor at the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of Alberta. She teaches Ukrainian language, Business Ukrainian, applied linguistics, at both undergraduate and graduate levels. In 2008 she won the U of A's Undergraduate Teaching Award from the Faculty of Arts. In 2012 her textbook "Ukrainian Through Its Living Culture" won the AATSEEL Book prize for "Best Contribution to Language Pedagogy".

Harper issues Independence Day statement

(UkrNews)—Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Aug. 24 issued the following statement on the 22nd anniversary of Ukraine's independence:

"On behalf of all Canadians, I am pleased to extend my very best wishes to all those celebrating the anniversary of Ukraine's independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

"Canada was the first Western country to recognize Ukraine's independence. Since then, our bilateral relations continue to be strengthened through enhanced political, economic and cultural ties. This includes our significant contributions to promoting economic development and democracy in Ukraine, such as sending hundreds of election observers to five successive Ukrainian elections since 2004 to help ensure free and fair elections. We will continue to support the Ukrainian people in their efforts to secure a fully democratic and prosperous future.

"Today is also an occasion to celebrate Canada's extraordinarily rich Ukrainian heritage and the immense contributions of Ukrainian-Canadians — both past and present — to the fabric of our great nation.

"Once again, Laureen and I would like to wish all those celebrating this important moment in Ukrainian history a happy Independence Day."

Trudeau issues Independence Day statement

(UkrNews)—Liberal Party Leader Justin Trudeau, made the following statement today on the occasion of Ukraine's Independence Day:

"Today marks 22 years since Ukraine's independence and a special occasion that will be celebrated by Ukrainians and the more than one million Ukrainian-Canadians across our country.

"Canada was the first Western country to recognize Ukrainian independence, and this is a testament to the strong and enduring friendship that has existed between our peoples. Today, Canada continues to stand up for democracy, human rights and the rule of law for all Ukrainians.

"Ukrainian Canadians have played an integral role in the success of our country, and Canada has stood with the Ukrainian community as they have sought freedom and democracy.

"Thanks to generations of Canadians, we are blessed to live in one of the most peaceful and prosperous countries in the world. Canada's greatness has emerged not in spite of its diversity, but because of it.

"I am delighted to extend my very best wishes to you and your loved ones as you celebrate Ukraine's Independence Day."

Grod participates in memorial service at Lonsky Street Prison

(UCC National)--Ukrainian Canadian Congress President Paul Grod took part in a memorial service at Lonsky Street Prison as part of the activities surrounding the Ukrainian World Congress meeting held in Lviv, August 20-22.

Grod made the following comments:

"The prison on Lonsky Street is an important national symbol of the sacrifice and suffering of the Ukrainian people in their quest for emancipation and independence. The Lonsky Prison Museum and Memorial to Victims of Occupation Regimes is a government institution under the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.

"Ukrainian Canadians are proud that Prime Minister Harper visited the Lonsky Prison memorial in 2010 as part of his official state visit to Ukraine and met last year with the director of the museum/memorial Mr. Ruslan Zabily in Ottawa. In the words of Prime Minister Stephen Harper: 'Lonsky is where freedom in Ukraine went to die'.

"On behalf of all Ukrainian Canadians, the Ukrainian Canadian Congress expresses its deepest sense of mourning over the Ukrainians, Poles, Jews and others nationalities that suffered and perished in Lonsky at the hands of Soviet and Nazi occupiers of Ukrainian lands.

"The mission of this sacred place is to help overcome a totalitarian past when the twin evils of Soviet and Nazi occupation separately and together unleashed unparalleled carnage in Ukraine. We are bound by our common sense of humanity to help in this noble cause.

"I would also like to acknowledge the important contribution made by the League of Ukrainian Canadians, a prominent member of the UCC, in bringing the Lonsky Prison Memorial Museum into the public consciousness of all Canadians.

"May God Bless the heroic fighters for freedom and human rights that were incarcerated here.

"May their memory be eternal."

PHOTO -- UWC

Religious service at the closing of the X Ukrainian World Congress in Lviv

Czolij re-elected President

Cont. from P. 1

memory of the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-33 on the 80th anniversary of this genocide, began on 20 August with a procession and memorial service at the Taras Shevchenko monument in the city's main square. The opening ceremony that same evening was held before a packed audience at the Solomiya Krushelnytska Lviv National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet during which UWC President Eugene Czolij delivered the keynote address.

Three themes relevant to the global Ukrainian community were the focus of round table discussions. They included "Euro-integration – securing Ukraine's independence and furthering its democratization", "A global Ukrainian community – promoting common interests" and "Holodomor 1932-33: the truth prevails".

Delegates elected the following members of the UWC Executive Committee: Eugene Czolij – President (Canada); Jaroszlava Hartyanyi – 1st Vice President (Hungary); Orysia Sushko – 2nd Vice President (Canada) Peter Sztyk – 3rd Vice President (France) Stefan Romaniw – Secretary General (Australia) Bohdan Watral – Financial Officer (USA) Zenon Potoczny – Treasurer (Canada)

The UWC is the international coordinating body for Ukrainian communities in the diaspora representing the interests of over 20 million Ukrainians. The UWC has member organizations in 33 countries and ties with Ukrainians in 14 additional countries. Founded in 1967 as a non-profit corporation, the UWC was recognized in 2003 by the United Nations Economic and Social Council as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with special consultative status.

UKRAINIAN CANADIAN CONGRESS **КОНҐРЕС УКРАЇНЦІВ КАНАДИ**

Leading the Community
Ведемо вперед нашу громаду

Greetings on the 22nd Anniversary of Ukraine's Independence
August 24, 1991 - August 24, 2013

Dear Friends!

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress and all its member organizations extend greetings and best wishes to the Ukrainian Canadian community and the people of Ukraine on the occasion of the 22nd Anniversary of Ukraine's independence.

Twenty two years ago, the people of Ukraine resoundingly voted to peacefully establish a free and independent Ukrainian state. In gaining its independence, Ukraine left behind the oppression of the Soviet Union to join the community of independent nations, with political and policy decision-making being made in Kyiv, not Moscow. The adoption of the declaration of Independence marked a return to democracy in Ukraine following centuries of Tsarist autocracy and decades of Communist dictatorship.

Thus began the difficult process of creating a modern, democratic, and prosperous Ukrainian state, united under the proud banner of the blue and yellow national flag, with Ukrainian being restored to its rightful place as the official state language.

Two decades later, Ukraine continues to struggle to overcome the legacy of repression and foreign domination, there are disturbing signs that efforts are being made to undo many of the hard-won achievements of Ukrainian independence, and to challenge Ukraine's language, national and territorial integrity, human rights and democracy.

In this context, it is crucial for all Ukrainians, both in Ukraine and in the Diaspora, to work together to ensure that the principles upon which Ukraine's independence was established are not eroded or compromised.

In 1991, Canada became the first Western nation to recognize Ukraine's independence, and since that time Canada has been a stalwart friend of Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. The Ukrainian Canadian Congress continues to work with the Government of Canada and Ukrainian Canadians to use this special relationship and our multitude of historical, familial, and organizational ties with Ukraine, to encourage its continued democratic, economic and cultural development.

With respect and best wishes,
Ukrainian Canadian Congress
Paul Grod, President

UWC President promotes Ukraine's Euro-integration

(UWC)—April 22-25 Ukrainian World Congress (UWC) President Eugene Czolij met with high-ranking officials of the Council of Europe during a four-day visit to Strasbourg, France, to discuss the importance of moving forward Ukraine's Euro-integration.

The UWC President discussed this issue with the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Jean-Claude Mignon, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, and the Chairpersons and representatives of various political groups and national delegations to the Council of Europe, including France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland and United Kingdom.

The UWC President stressed that the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement will undoubtedly provide a strong stimulus to democracy and social progress in Ukraine. Alternatively, Ukraine will drift further into the Russian sphere of influence, significantly undermining Ukraine's sovereignty, causing further deterioration of its human rights record and posing the threat of a new Soviet Union.

During his meeting with the UWC President, PACE President Jean-Claude Mignon mentioned that, after his recent trip to Ukraine, he remains positive about Ukraine's ongoing Euro-integration process and added: "I am in favour of the signing of the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement during the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in November of this year."

The Chairperson of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, Pietro Marcenaro, stated that: "Ukraine's Euro-integration is in the best interests of Europe and Ukraine. Accordingly, the fundamental decision whether to sign the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement should be made according to the long–term interests of Europe, Ukraine and regional security, stability and prosperity."

The Chairperson of the French delegation to the Council of Europe, René Rouquet, expressed his agreement with the UWC position on Ukraine's Euro-integration declaring: "Ukraine's European integration will entail enormous benefits for both the EU and Ukraine. The signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement in November in Vilnius is necessary because it will contribute to the modernization, democratization and Europeanization of Ukraine."

The signing of the EU-Ukraine Association was also supported by Orinta Leiputé, Chairperson of the Lithuanian delegation to the Council of Europe, and Dr. Egidijus Vareikis, Member of the Lithuanian Parliament, who indicated that: "during Lithuania's Chairmanship of the EU, Lithuania will promote the signing of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement at the November Third Summit of the Eastern Partnership in Vilnius". The Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the Council of Europe, Ambassador Gediminas Serksnys, echoed those words.

While considering the point of view of the UWC on the strategic importance of Ukraine's Euro–integration, Anne Brasseur, Chairperson of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, underlined the necessity for the country to comply with the standards of the Council of Europe.

Luca Volontè, Chairperson of the European People's Party, highlighted the need to end selective justice in Ukraine.

Andreas Gross, Chairperson of the Socialist Group, emphasized: "the importance of democracy building in Ukraine".

Czolij also stressed the need to engage civil society in the advancement of Ukraine's Euro–integration goals.

The Co-Rapporteurs for the monitoring of Ukraine by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Mailis Reps and Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, underlined the importance of continually engaging Ukraine's civil society on the issue of the long-term advantages of Ukraine's Euro-integration.

During his meeting with Sir Roger Gale, a member of the UK National Delegation to the Council of Europe, the UWC President encouraged the United Kingdom to take appropriate actions to ensure that Russia complies with the 1994 Memorandum on Security Assurances in connection with Ukraine's accession to the Treaty on the Non–Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, also signed by the UK, the U.S., and Ukraine, and stops using Russian gas as a political weapon against Ukraine.

The UWC President had the opportunity to discuss with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Nils Muiznieks, human rights issues in Ukraine and the national minority rights of Ukrainians in Russia. Czolij emphasized the continued concerns with respect to selective justice in Ukraine and, specifically, the continued imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. The Commissioner noted that he follows the human rights situation in Ukraine and that he will participate in a roundtable discussion there in May. He also made reference to his recent visit to Russia and his monitoring of the situation of NGOs.

During a meeting with the Chairperson of the Polish National Delegation to the Council of Europe, Andrzej Halicki, the UWC President underlined that Ukraine's further Euro-integration will enhance regional security and stability. They also discussed the importance to address in an honest and conciliatory manner the past conflicts between the Ukrainian and Polish nations so as to strengthen their relationship instead of creating animosity.

The UWC President advised the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Ukrainian National Delegation to the Council of Europe, Ivan Popescu and Serhiy Soboliev, and the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the Council of Europe, Ambassador Mykola Tochytskyi, that Ukraine's governing authorities and opposition must continue to demonstrate their commitment to Ukraine's Euro–integration with concrete steps, including by reforming the legal and judicial systems and ending selective justice.

Ukrainian riot police officers stop an opposition deputy as he tries to enter the building of the Kyiv City Council through a window.

Clashes erupt at Kyiv city Rada building

(Ukrainian Journal)—Clashes erupted Aug.19 when opposition lawmakers broke into the heavily guarded Kyiv city council building through windows seeking to prevent what they call an "illegal" session of the local legislature.

The lawmakers, led by Batkivshchyna leader Arseniy Yatseniuk, tried to stop groups loyal to President Viktor Yanukovych from holding the session because the council's five-year term in office had de-facto expired on June 2.

But the new election, which would most likely produce an anti-Yanukovych government in the city of Kyiv, was postponed by the Constitutional Court until October 2015, or until after the next presidential election in March 2015.

Riot police stopped the opposition lawmakers unleashing a fierce attack, including beating several lawmakers in the face, as part of a plan to let the session open, making it legitimate.

"Dozens of lawmakers have come today to the council in order to protect the right to Kyivites to the election," Yatseniuk said after the clash with police. "But [Yanukovych's] Regions Party was acting like Nazis."

The council opened for 10 minutes, enough time to approve five bills, including authorizing the Kyiv government to disburse 400 million hryvnias to budget-financed organizations, such as schools and hospitals.

Yatseniuk said the fierce attack on the lawmakers by police was a test ahead of upcoming presidential election in March 2015 at which Yanukovych is expected to seek re-election.

Due to Yanukovych's low approval ratings, he will probably lose the election, but will try to manipulate the vote and will use police to quell the people's protests, Yatseniuk said.

"I do not remember this even during the Orange Revolution, that the police did not allow lawmakers to carry out their duties," Yatseniuk said.

"What happened today is a script for the year of 2015 when Yanukovych will be defending the Central Election Commission when he will be rigging the vote," Yatseniuk said.

The Kyiv council voted to approve five bills, including disbursal of millions of hryvnias in state funds to budget-financed institutions, such as schools and hospitals.

Oleksandr Popov, a Yanukovych-appointed head of the Kyiv government, said the successful vote was a victory for the Kyivites over "destructive forces."

"Resuming the session of the council is a victory over the destructive forces of Kyiv politics," Popov said quoted by his press service. "With the support of trade unions, NGOs and the general public the Kyiv City Council once again continues to fulfill its obligations to its citizens."

The developments will mostly further escalate as Parliament resumes its session in September and may potentially lead to another political crisis.

The opposition groups sought to schedule the next Kyiv mayor and Kyiv council election on June 2, but the motion was defeated by the Regions Party.

The opposition will try to schedule the next elections on October 27, according to a bill submitted to Parliament earlier this year, but will probably also be defeated by the pro-Yanukovych groups.

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US ambassador would like to discuss European choice with Tymoshenko

(Interfax-Ukraine)—New US Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt has said he would like to visit the convicted former prime minister, Yulia Tymoshenko, in Kharkiv hospital to hear her views on the European integration of Ukraine and the state of democracy in the country.

In an interview for the Channel Ukraine's news program, the ambassador said he would like to do what had already been done by his predecessor John Tefft, who together with his European counterparts went to Kharkiv and met with Tymoshenko.

Pyatt said he wanted to do the same, in particular to hear the ex-premier's views on Ukraine's European choice and her views on Ukrainian democracy.

The diplomat said he had already met with the leadership of Ukraine, as well as leaders of the Batkivschyna All-Ukrainian Union, in particular Arseniy Yatseniuk, and noted that both the opposition and the authorities shared the European integration aspirations.

Pyatt said he looked forward to meeting with other opposition politicians and other government officials.

According to the ambassador, Tymoshenko's case is important because it is associated with selective prosecution, and this issue causes major concern in the United States, in the Congress, as well as in Europe, not only among European governments, but on the part of the European Court of Human Rights. The diplomat expressed the hope that the Ukrainian authorities would show wisdom and would find a way to solve this issue through working with European Parliament's observers, former Polish President Alexander Kwasniewski and former European Parliament President Pat Cox.

The ambassador also expressed a belief that Kyiv had a fair chance of signing an association agreement with the EU in Vilnius in November.

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Сьогодні, одна з найбільших українських популяцій у світі живе тут, в Альберті.

Це є причиною для святкування ...

З Днем Незалежності!

Best wishes from Raj Sherman and the Alberta Liberal Opposition
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Путін хоче поставити Київ на коліна – експерт

(Голос Америки)—Першою ластівкою напруження відносин між Україною та Росією стала заборона на ввезення у Росію продукції компанії «Рошен». Пояснили такий крок незадовільною якістю продукції українського виробника. Але слідом за українськими солодощами на кордоні між Україною та Росією почали зупиняти й інші вантажі. Це призвело до черг на перепускних пунктах та затримок поставок.

На Заході всі дії російської митниці щодо українських товарів сприйняли як початок торговельної війни між Україною та Росією. Зокрема у цьому переконаний старший аналітик Інституту міжнародної економіки імені Пітерсона Андерс Ослунд.

«Росія справді демонструє, що усі карти на столі, і оскільки приблизно одна четверта українського товарообігу припадає на Росію, Росія має серйозний вплив. Україна знаходиться в рецесії, ВВП падає один два відсотки у квартал, фінансова ситуація дуже погана, Україну можуть легко викинути з ринку міжнародних бондів і ніхто не допоможе Україні з грошима. Виглядає на те, що президент Путін вирішив поставити Україну на коліна», – говорить експерт.

Головною причиною таких дій Кремля вважають намагання натиснути на Київ з метою схилити Україну до входження до Митного Союзу. У політичних мотивах останніх торговельних непорозумінь переконані і українські експерти. Про це зокрема говорить політолог Михайло Погребінський.

«Якщо Україна не погодиться на вступ до Митного союзу, вона матиме труднощі з доставкою товарів (до Росії / Білорусі / Казахстану). І здається, ці проблеми вже почалися», – вважає Погребінський.

Але на переконання Андерса Ослунда, вступ до Митного союзу буде шкідливим для української економіки.

Старший аналітик Інституту міжнародної економіки імені Пітерсона вважає: «Митний Союз не є виходом для України. Україна стикнеться з масовим протекціонізмом. Росія має набагато вищі тарифи на імпорт ніж Україна і це відріже Україну від Європи. Ринок країн Європейського Союзу сьогодні набагато важливіший ринок для України ніж Російський. Вступ до Митного союзу буде кроком назад, а не вперед».

Усвідомлюючи політичні причини останніх непорозумінь між Україною та Росією і складну ситуацію, в якій опиняється Київ напередодні підписання угоди про асоціацію з ЄС, Європейська комісія закликала сторони вирішити проблеми відповідно до норм Світової організації торгівлі. Але цей заклик може так і залишитись закликом, оскільки, як кажуть експерти СОТ надзвичайно повільна організація щодо вирішення суперечок і Україна може залишить один на один з проблемою.

Хто і чому на Донбасі не цінує незалежність України?

Олена Поволяєва, *Радіо Свобода*

Молодші жителі Донбасу частіше називають себе українцями, аніж люди старшого віку, кажуть соціологи. Більшість опитаних хоче, щоб до них зверталися російською мовою, а незалежність зараз підтримує лише третина східняків. Про що свідчать такі результати соціологічних опитувань?

Згідно з серпневим дослідженням соціологічної групи «Рейтинг», на Донбасі кількість опитаних, готових обстоювати територіальну цілісність країни зі зброєю в руках, у 1,5 раза вища, ніж кількість людей, які підтримали б незалежність.

Цю суперечність керівник аналітичних програм донецького осередку «Комітету виборців України» Олександр Клюжев пояснює тим, що «у нашому регіоні поважають силу».

«Мешканці тієї ж Донецької області звикли орієнтуватися на силу. І демонстрація слабкості для них – неприйнятний варіант. Тому якщо в лоба ставити питання, чи готові ви захищати свою країну від зовнішньої загрози, то, звісно, люди з різними політичними поглядами схильні казати, що вони готові. Бо в нашому регіоні силу поважають», – вважає Клюжев.

Тому, на думку політолога, не треба поспішати робити песимістичні висновки із того, що лише третина жителів сходу підтримала незалежність України, якби довелося голосувати зараз. Є справді певний скепсис до результатів незалежності, зауважує дослідник, і багато людей, які голосували на референдумі 1991 року, напевно, зараз розчаровані. Люди не стали жити краще і мають право на прагматичну оцінку.

«Завдання політичної еліти – забезпечити громадянам упевненість, що ми йдемо в правильному напрямку», – наголосив Клюжев

У Донецьку проводив дослідження також Центр політологічних досліджень. Соціолог Кирило Черкашин розповів Радіо Свобода, що результати опитування теж показали, що російська мова не є перепоною для сприйняття незалежності. Хоча якщо за кордоном хтось питає у туристів з Донеччини, чи вони росіяни, найчастіше чує стверджувальну відповідь.

«99 відсотків опитаних сказали, що їм краще проводити опитування російською, 1 відсоток – українською. Разом із тим, українцями себе назвали серед усіх опитаних 55 відсотків. І 35 відсотків – росіянами. Загалом, тут є певна суперечність, пов'язана з тим, що превалює російська мова, але водночас більшість вважає себе українцями. Чітка тенденція тут простежується у вікових групах. Чим старші респонденти, тим більша частка серед них тих, які називають себе росіянами. Чим стають молодшими респонденти, тим більше вони називають себе українцями», – каже Черкашин.

Соціологи й політологи сходяться на думці, що молодші покоління, особливо народжені під час незалежності, ідентифікують себе як українців.

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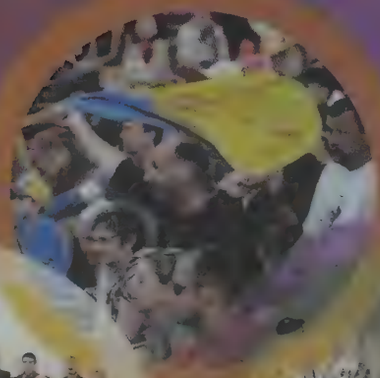

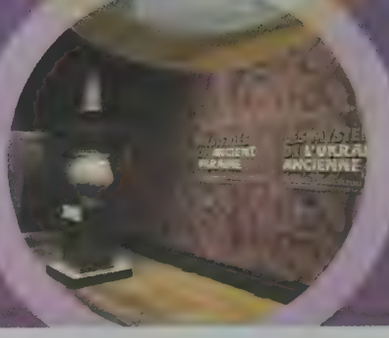

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ФОТО — ГАЛИНА ТЕРЕЩУК

Освячення памятника

Ігор Білозір «повернувся» в образі білого ангела

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

19 серпня у Львові на Личаківському цвинтарі освятили надмогильний пам'ятник українському композитору, автору понад 100-а українських пісень Ігореві Білозору, який був керівником і солістом ансамблю «Ватра». 8 травня 2000 року Ігоря Білозора у центрі Львова побили двоє чоловіків і внаслідок завданих травм він помер у шпиталі 28 травня.

Цього року композитор повернувся до Львову у вигляді білого ангела, немов захищаючи своїм крилом усіх, хто до нього прийшов. Пам'ятник зроблено з білого мармуру, який син Андрій Білозір вибирав сам на кар'єрі в Італії, а вже постамент – з житомирського граніту. Хоча лише через тринадцять років створили надмогильну скульптуру, але вона, як каже син, вийшла чудова. Над проектом працювали разом зі скульпторами.

«Ми хотіли, щоб це було втілення ідеї і сутності батька. Є спільнота архітекторів, з якими ми радились, і через довгі роки вийшла ідея – маємо постамент. Я вірю, що в українському суспільстві буде пошук глибини і музика мого батька та інших композиторів буде потрібна», – розповів Андрій Білозір.

Тринадцять років тому, 28 травня 2000 року, Ігоря Білозора не стало. Він не вижив після численних травм, завданих йому двома чоловіками у центрі Львова після сварки, яка виникла через те, що Білозір з друзями співав українською.

Ця трагедія спричинила великий резонанс в Україні. Люди розцінили, що митця вбили за українську пісню. Правоохоронці, як переконана родина й друзі Білозора, тоді намагалися заплутати справу і вигородити одного із нападників – Воронова, батько якого обіймав керівну посаду в місцевих органах міліції, але під тиском громади обоє злочинців були засуджені. Сьогодні вони вже на волі.

Сина Білозора Андрія нині ця справа не цікавить, для нього важливо, щоб пісні батька жили. А про це дбають друзі композитора, «ватрівчани». Музикант Роман Лозинський познайомився з Ігорем Білозором у 70-х, разом створили «Ватру» при львівській філармонії у 1979 році. У 1972 році зустрілись Білозір і композитор Сергій Новохацький. Музиканти пригадали свого друга.

«Він був тонкою та експресивною натурою, екстремальний чоловік. Завжди в Ігоря було розуміння, що через пісню можна висловити національну ідею, це було поштовхом, стержнем і тому його пісні досі актуальні. Він присутній, його треба бачити по-новому, у ньому було закладене істинне зерно від народу, він відчував душу народу, був правдивим. Я намагаюсь звернутись до творчості Ігоря, але зробити це мовою, доступною для молоді», – зауважив Лозинський.

«Він є народним композитором, його музика пов'язана з народною пісенністю. Український новеліст Василь Левицький якось пожартував, що Ігор займається плагіатом, бо забирає народні пісні у людей, але Ігор заперечив, кажучи, що пише те, що відчуває», – пригадав Новохацький.

«Пшеничне перевесло», «Мамина світлиця», «Весільний марш» – ці пісні, написані разом із поетом Богданом Стельмахом, залишив після себе Ігор Білозір.

Сотні людей прийшли на Личаківський цвинтар, щоб помолитись і покласти квіти до підніжжя пам'ятника композитора, а ще разом заспівали улюблену пісню митця:

«Може, далеко від дому
Крила зів'януть мої,
Згасне зоря, а по тому
Змовкнуть навік солов'ї.
Сину, затям собі, сину,
Де б ти у світі не був,
Кожен світлицю покинув,
Але ніхто не забув».

В Івано-Франківську відзначили день народження Каменяра

(Радіо Свобода)—Урочистою ходою громадськості центральними вулицями Івано-Франківська з покладанням квітів до погруддя і до пам'ятника Каменяреві розпочалося у вівторок відзначення 157-ї річниці від дня народження Івана Франка у місті, що носить його ім'я, 27 серпня.

Під час віча говорили про значення Івана Франка в історії української літератури і в державотворенні, про його місію духовного провідника нації.

Упродовж двох годин біля пам'ятника Франкові проходили вуличні читання творів Франка, які традиційно організовують «Молода просвіта» та Громадський інститут аналітики. Можна було напам'ять прочитати свій улюблений вірш, а можна було скористатися збірками віршів поета, які принесли молоді активісти, повідомляє кореспондентка Радіо Свобода.

PHOTOS – MARCO LEVYTSKY

Visitors view the displays at the Canadian Pacific Station Museum

Babas and Borshch festival exceeds expectations

(UkrNews) – The response to the first annual Baba's and Borshch Ukrainian Festival in Andrew, located 115 kilometres northeast of Edmonton, greatly exceeded the organizers' expectations says Festival Coordinator Hazel Anaka.

"The turnout was beyond our wildest dreams," she told Ukrainian News.

"And I'm sure that when the dust settles we'll find that there were logistical issues — we probably could have had a few more food concessions to minimize the lines. We probably could have had a bit more everything but again we didn't know," she added.

Anaka said it was decided to hold a festival in Andrew because "we are in the heartland of Ukrainian country and Lamont County is the site of the first Ukrainian settler in n Canada."

"We have that proud heritage and we probably also have an obligation to preserve and promote and it's a good a reason to party."

As there was no admission to the festival it is hard to get a correct attendance figure, but hundred poured through the grounds with food line-ups taking up to 20 minutes in some cases.

This festival had several unique features. One was the shuttle tour of village attractions which came along with a passport that was stamped at each of the stops.

These included Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church, a 1939 onion-domed church with its iconostasis; the Canadian Pacific Station Museum, housed in a 1930 Railway Station with railway, agricultural and Ukrainian exhibits; and the Andrew Elevator Museum and Interpretative Centre, where you could learn all about grain handling systems from the late 1920s as you walked through this working elevator.

Participants arriving at the Andrew Community Centre were greeted by Baba Magda, could

Hazel Anaka

then visit the Passport Office, shop at Baba's Bazaar featuring exhibitors, vendors, artisans, farm fresh produce, baking and handcrafted items, have a drink at the Beer Garden, treat themselves to traditional Ukrainian food at Baba's Bistro, take in the Main Stage Program of dancers, musicians, presenters, check out the Lamont County FCSS Kid's Activities Area. Games, make-it-and take-it projects and more, show up for the "Perogy Dance" lesson., see bread baking demonstration in the outdoor pich (clay oven). And learn the old-time card games (Hola, Durak) during drop-in lessons.

There was also of traditional and modern music performed by young and old, amateur and professional musicians at the Outdoor Music Jam, a Ukrainian Games Triathlon, free Mini Golf downtown, and a free Concert in the Park with performances by Country Sunshine, Cassidy Zahar and more.

That evening a sold-out Zabava featured performances by the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and Ukrainian Male Chorus of Edmonton followed by a dance featuring the Prairie Rose Band.

On Sunday a Divine Liturgy church service at Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church was conducted by Fr. Benny Ambrose a Baba's Brunch was held as well as a film screening of *Cossacks in Exile*.

The main stage program continued but was augmented with a Borshch Cook Off, a Korovai (wedding bread) Demonstration (Natalia & Hanya Onyschuk) and a Horse-shoeing Demo by Coyote Country Farrier (Melisa Mastin)

Congratulations to all Ukrainians on 22 years of Independence.

Hon. Ken Krawetz
Deputy Premier
Minister of Finance
MLA, Canora-Pelly

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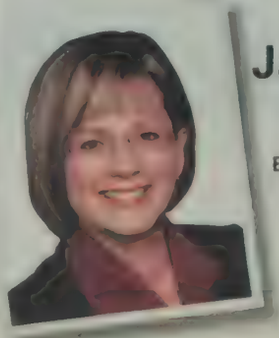

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Як протидіяти експлуатації дитячої праці?

Ірина Штогрін, *Радіо Свобода*

В Україні нелегально використовують працю дітей, але ніхто не знає реальної величини цієї проблеми. Дітям платять менше, аніж дорослим за ту саму роботу, їх примушують працювати понаднормово і залучають до важких робіт. Довести порушення важко, бо ніяких угод з підлітками не підписують. При цьому держава не сприяє працевлаштуванню неповнолітніх під час літніх канікул.

В Україні вже давно не проводилося ґрунтовних досліджень щодо дитячої праці. Однак безперечним є те, що більшість українських підлітків хотіла б мати можливість заробляти під час канікул, або й підпрацьовувати під час навчання. Цим користуються несумлінні роботодавці й беруть неповнолітніх на роботу нелегально.

Поки в Україні не створили систему контролю за використанням дитячої праці і «недопущення порушень прав дитини, яка, згідно із законодавством, може працювати», зізнається уповноважений президента з прав дитини Юрій Павленко.

«Ми – як Україна, як держава – точно не знаємо обсягу цієї проблеми. Немає достовірної інформації, скільки дітей працюють, щодо скількох дітей є порушення законодавства, ми не знаємо, скільки дітей нелегально втягуються у небезпечну для них працю. Ми маємо лише одиничні кримінальні справи та випадки притягнення до відповідальності. Минулого року ми провели соціологічне дослідження й отримали дані,

Катерина Левченко

що кожна четверта дитина працювала, але більшість батьків не знали, що діти працюють. Діти працюють у сільському господарстві, на будівництвах, продають газети та роздають рекламні буклети, також діти працюють на нелегальних копанках», – розповів Радіо Свобода Юрій Павленко.

Павленко повідомив, що з січня Міжнародна організація праці розпочне глобальне дослідження експлуатації дитячої праці в Україні. На думку уповноваженого з прав дитини, це дослідження надасть об'єктивну інформацію щодо реальних масштабів використання дитячої праці, а особливо її найгірших форм, й буде використане для удосконалення роботи державних органів.

«Вже зараз органи Державної інспекції праці проводять перевірки у всіх регіонах України. І проблема дитячої праці є одним із пріоритетів в роботі офісу уповноваженого», – наголосив Павленко.

Дитячу працю в Україні використовують нелегально, і держава має можливість ігнорувати цю проблему, вважає Катерина Левченко, президент міжнародного правозахисного центру «Ла Страда-Україна».

На думку правозахисника, держава не має відповідних інструментів та спеціальних кадрів, які б дозволяли ефективно боротися з використанням праці дітей у недозволений законом спосіб.

Левченко розповіла, що на «гарячу лінію» міжнародного правозахисного центру «Ла Страда-Україна» з питань захисту прав дитини (0 800 500 335 або 386 для дзвінків з мобільного) телефонують переважно саме діти. Частина цих дзвінків стосується проблем працевлаштування неповнолітніх.

Правозахисник наполягає, що батьки та й школярі повинні знати про те, як законодавство регулює можливість праці дітей.

Левченко радить батькам обов'язково ходити з дітьми до потенційних працедавців. Як правило, лише цього достатньо, каже правозахисник, щоб роботодавець не порушував домовленості – платив обіцяне вчасно, не примушував дітей працювати більше, аніж дозволяє закон і дбав про належні умови праці.

Органи державної влади, на думку правозахисників, мали б створювати умови для легального працевлаштування підлітків під час літніх канікул, зокрема, й для благоустрою міста.

Українці розчаровані незалежністю чи рівнем життя?

Дмитро Баркар, *Радіо Свобода*

Третина громадян не підтримує незалежності України. Про це свідчать результати соціологічного опитування. При цьому на заході країни рівень підтримки української самостійності сягає 90 відсотків, тоді як 60 відсотків опитаних на Донбасі заявляють, що не проголосували б за незалежність. Експерти кажуть про загальне розчарування, спричинене невисоким рівнем життя. Також вони зауважують, що для жителів східної частини України матеріальні цінності є важливішими.

Проголошення незалежності України, якби постав такий вибір, підтримав би 61 відсоток громадян. Про це свідчать результати дослідження соціологічної групи «Рейтинг». Водночас, за результатами опитування, 28 відсотків не підтримали б незалежності, ще 13 відсотків опитаних не визначилися. З серпня 2012 року ці показники практично не змінилися. Утім, у порівнянні з 1991 роком, коли створення самостійної української держави підтримали понад 90 відсотків виборців, помітно, що ідея незалежності набула негативних рис, зазначає перший президент України Леонід Кравчук. На його думку, це пояснюється тим, що 22 роки тому українці мали завищені очікування.

«Коли ми проголошували незалежність, навіть ті, хто її проголошував, не знали усіх нюансів у політиці, в економіці, у соціальній сфері. Тому люди , коли відчули на своєму житті проблеми, складнощі і побачили ті негативні процеси, які зараз визрівають і вибухають, – звичайно вони не такої незалежності хотіли, і вони негативно ставляться до незалежності. Але, попри все, більше половини людей хочуть господарювати самі у своїй хаті», – зауважує Кравчук.

Результати дослідження соціологічної групи «Рейтинг» також вказують на різницю у сприйнятті незалежності в різних регіонах України. Якщо на заході незалежність підтримали б майже 90 відсотків респондентів, на півночі та в центрі – майже 70 відсотків, то півдні – менше половини, а на Донбасі – взагалі лише третина опитаних. Така розбіжність є наслідком різниці в історичному досвіді, вважає соціолог Євген Копатько.

«Ідея спільного життя на благо країни, мабуть, нині не є домінуючою. На заході України є прив'язка до мови, до території, до атрибутів української державності. На сході це менше проявлено. Різне ставлення до країни, різне ставлення до її історії, мабуть, і відобразилося у цих цифрах. У нас вийшло так, що в одній частині країни хтось вважає, що у них є монополія на історію, на правду, на мову. Такий собі громадянський конфлікт. Боротьба за історичне минуле, за символи минулого», – каже Копатько.

До загального розчарування результатами незалежності додається ще й соціальне напруження, спричинене діями нинішньої влади, зауважує політолог Олексій Гарань. За його словами, цей чинник має найбільший вплив саме на жителів півдня та сходу України.

«Це ситуація ще й з Януковичем. Раніше вони все списували на «помаранчевих», а зараз прийшов начебто їхній Янукович, а він все одно не виконує обіцянок. Водночас на сході не задоволені незалежністю, але поставте запитання, чи хочуть вони відділитися від України і приєднатися до Росії. Будь-яке опитування зафіксує це на рівні лише кількох відсотків. Тобто одна річ, коли люди відповідають в опитуванні, а інша річ, коли вони опиняються перед реальною ситуацією вибору», – зазначає Гарань.

Оцінки експертів сходяться на тому, що рівень підтримки незалежності України її громадянами для молодої країни, яка не має значних економічних та політичних досягнень, можна вважати задовільним.

"Nadia" perform

Preserving independence is up to us, speaker says

(UkrNews)—Preserving Ukraine's independence is up to individuals — especially as we can't count on the state, said the keynote speaker at Edmonton's Independence Day celebration, Aug. 24.

"Every Independence Day — is like a challenge," said Vakhtang Kipiani, editor of the internet site "Historical Truth", speaking in Ukrainian.

"There isn't anything in particular to note as to what the state has done for the people this year. On the contrary. On the contrary — we have to report before the community and our own conscience – what we have done to fill the words 'independent, free, democratic Ukraine' with a full content. Everyone according to their means. Both in Kyiv and in Edmonton," he added during the event organized by the Edmonton Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and held at the Ukrainian Youth Unity Complex.

Kipiani said the "Historical Truth" webs site serves as an example how one can set up an influential media site which manages to preserve editorial independence, in an otherwise dismal media climate.

The vast majority of television stations are in the hands of the oligarchs thus "de-facto bolster the thieving anti-Ukrainian regime of (President Viktor) Yanukovych". With the exception of Lviv's "Express" all large-circulation newspapers are published in Russian. There is only one regular program that deals with Ukrainian music and that's run by Maria Burmaka, who has performed in Edmonton.

"In that sense the role of the Diaspora remains critical. It's evident that the independence of Ukraine will not be built in Canada, Portugal, or Australia. But there are talented and patriotic people of Ukrainian origin in the free world who are able to exert their efforts for the fatherland. Especially in the realm of reviving and preserving historical memory, supporting the free media and the community sector in Ukraine in general."

Kipiani, who two years ago visited Canada on the historical train of pioneers, recalled how he met with many politicians who noted how much aid Canada has given Ukraine. He kept telling them not to send aid to the corrupt regime which does nothing for the people, but to redirect it to individuals seriously concerned about Ukraine's future.

He noted that much of Ukraine's current plight rests with the years of repressions suffered under the communist regime.

Vakhtang Kipiani

"When in other republics of the Soviet Union the communists clipped their nails, in Ukraine — through the efforts of the NKVD/KGB — they chopped arms."

This has left a badly divided country. Only 61 percent of the population would support independence today, with 21% opposed and 13 percent undecided. Geographically support for independence ranges from 90 percent in the western regions top just one third in Donetsk and Luhansk.

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Canada, Vegreville-Wainwright MP Leon Benoit reiterated Canada's historic ties and support for Ukraine and reaffirmed his government's commitment to helping Ukraine develop as a democratic state.

"We believe that only in a truly democratic government, where the rights of all are protected can Ukrainians make a better life for themselves. The Prime Minister said it best when he stated that 'the bonds of friendship between Canada and Ukraine are strong and deep, and we are proud to support Ukrainians in their aspirations for a peaceful, democratic and prosperous society'," he said.

Representing the City of Edmonton, Councillor Dave Loken noted that he is of Ukrainian origin on his mother's side and commended the UCC's Edmonton Branch for "supporting the Ukrainian community in Edmonton and working towards preserving the heritage, history and culture. Edmonton celebrates the rich diversity and multicultural heritage of all our citizens."

UCC Edmonton President Luba Feduschak said "we continue to watch with bated breath continues in her evolution to a complete and transparent democracy," adding that the realization of such goals requires not only faith, but also work.

"On behalf of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress – Edmonton Branch, I invite you to participate in this 22nd anniversary celebration and pray for Ukraine's continued growth as a member of the world's democracies."

The artistic portion of the celebration included songs written and performed by Vasilij Ivanitsky, poems written and read by Myroslava Uniat and dances performed by "Nadia". Master of Ceremonies was Adrian Warchola.

The Organizing Committee was headed by Maria Vorotylenko and also included Ivan Lypovyk, Bohdana Lypovyk and Sasha Vorotylenko.

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CIUS will release a new online scholarly journal, *East/West: Journal of Ukrainian Studies*, in 2014 to provide a forum for a scholarly discussion on Ukrainian humanities and social sciences in a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective; cultural geography and geopolitics; empires, regions, borders, and borderlands; dominant and subordinate cultures; collective identities, multiculturalism, nationalism; and the sociocultural foundations of modernization.

The Holodomor Reader: A Sourcebook on the Famine of 1932–1933 in Ukraine

Price: $34.95 (paper) and $74.95 (cloth).

This is the first comprehensive English-language sourcebook of the famine-genocide of 1932–33 in Ukraine. It offers a broad picture of the Holodomor, introducing readers to the context and consequences of this genocide and how it was perceived and treated by the international and Ukrainian communities.

Mykhailo Hrushevsky

History of Ukraine-Rus': Volume 6, Economic, Cultural, and National Life in the 14th to17th Centuries

Price: $119.95 (hardcover)

The volume presents a comprehensive account on culture, trade, manufacture, rural economy, population, and societal values and norms in the Ukrainian lands of the 14th to17th centuries. These include information about cultural, religious and national traditions, education, book production, artistic creativity, and the ideological polemics within the Orthodox Church.

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Молодь у Росії соромиться українського походження

Галина Терещук, *Радіо Свобода*

Близько двох мільйонів українців проживають у Росії. Це найчисельніша українська діаспора у світі. У Росії майже сто різних українських організацій, але немає єдиної централізованої. Російська влада блокує реєстрацію Українського конгресу Росії. Російські українці кажуть, що стали заручниками політичних протистоянь. Як живеться українській діаспорі Росії?

Родина етнографа Василя Бабенка походить з Чернігівщини і вже понад сто років проживає у Росії. Він народився у Башкирії в українському селі. Пригадує, що на цій території була справжня мала Україна, яка нараховувала сімнадцять українських поселень.

«Українська пісня заклала у мені український дух, який дає мені, з одного боку, сили жити, а з іншого боку – відбирає спокій у моїй душі. Я дуже переживаю за Україну.

Українська діаспора в Росії – «терра інкогніта» і для України, і для світового українства. До того ж сама діаспора не розуміє, що треба об'єднуватись, а не ділитись через певні погляди. Бо цими чварами користаються російські сили, які роблять все, щоб розпорошити українців. Закрито дві загальноросійські організації українців, був скандал з бібліотекою. Прикро, що не реєструють Український конгрес Росії як єдину українську організацію і для цього знаходять різні формальні причини», – наголосив Василь Бабенко.

Об'єднання українців Росії було ліквідоване торік, Федеральну національно-культурну автономію українців Росії закрито у 2010 році, але під такою ж назвою у 2012 була створена, без згоди більшості представників української діаспори, нова організація, яку частина українців вважає фальшивкою і провокацією. А тому вимагають від російської влади зареєструвати Український конгрес Росії, який міг би увійти до Світового конгресу українців. Втім, Мін'юст Росії відмовляє у реєстрації.

Попри те, що до 2015 року діє державна програма підтримки українців у Росії, реально вона не працює, каже Василь Бабенко. У Башкортостані у трьох російських школах викладають для дітей з українських родин українську мову і літературу, працює три українські недільні школи. А ось на Далекому Сході, де проживає 250 тисяч громадян Росії, які визнають себе українцями, немає жодної недільної школи, не кажучи вже про загальноосвітні школи з викладанням української.

За останні двадцять років на Зеленому Клині кількість людей, які ідентифікують себе українцями, зменшилась у чотири рази, наголосив В'ячеслав Чорномаз, історик, заступник голови Центру української культури «Горлиця» у Владивостоці. Його прадіди виїхали у Росію з Сумщини перед Другою Світовою війною.

«Причина в тому, що відсутні умови для збереження національної ідентичності. Для Росії типово українцями є люди, які приїхали з України, а їхні діти втрачають українську свідомість», – каже історик з Росії.

Українська діаспора у Росії не має україномовного видання, не може переглядати українські телеканали. У церквах богослужіння не ведуться українською мовою. Російська влада проводить політику створення негативного іміджу українців через ЗМІ, скаржаться в діаспорі. Протистояння між двома державами стає причиною того, що чимало людей соромляться свого українського походження.

Сьогодні українці, громадські активісти відчувають до себе дуже ще й ретельну увагу з боку російської влади, каже Любов Дяченко, керівник незареєстрованого Українського конгресу Росії.

«Ми відчуваємо, що почастішали перевірки, що зал десь не дали на наш захід, все це так відбувається ніби й неофіційно. Відносини між Росією і Україною погано впливають і на нашу громадську діяльність», – говорить Дяченко, яка 35 років проживала в Якутії, а зараз живе у Москві.

Представники української діаспори розповіли Радіо Свобода, що опинились немов у зачарованому колі – Україні байдуже, як вони почуваються у Росії, самі ж російські українці більше дбають про життєві проблеми і заробіток, а не збереження української мови чи традицій, а Росія не зацікавлена у тому, щоб українці збереглись як один з найчисельніших етносів. Нині громадські організації українців тримаються лише на ентузіазмі людей переважно старшого віку.

Російська влада постійно вимагає від України дотримання прав росіян в Україні, натомість українська влада мала б теж навчитись відстоювати права своїх громадян у Росії, наголошують діаспоряни.

Люди мовчать, коли порушують їхні права, бо бояться?

Ірина Штогрін, *Радіо Свобода*

Триває кримінальне провадження у справі мостобудівників, яким півроку не платили заробітної плати. Прокуратура відкрила справу тільки після того, як робітники перекрили залізничний міст однієї зі столичних розв'язок. Однак у більшості випадків, стверджують незалежні профспілки, роботодавці залишаються безкарними, бо люди нікуди не скаржаться.

Державна інспекція з питань праці штрафуватиме роботодавців за порушення, а міністр праці та соціальної політики Наталя Королевська запевняє, що «одне з ключових завдань – до кінця 2014 року ліквідувати прострочену заборгованість із заробітної плати». Такі повідомлення містяться на офіційних сайтах відповідних державних інституцій.

Натомість, профспілки стверджують, що права працюючих порушуються тотально. Роботодавці, користуючись великим попитом на роботу, платять не те, що обіцяли при прийомі на роботу. Працівників часто примушують писати заяви на відпустку за власний рахунок або зовсім не відпочивати, працюючи понаднормово і без вихідних. Затримки із виплати заробітної плати є звичайним явищем для усіх регіонів України та й найбільшого ринку праці – Києва.

Для прикладу: прокурорська перевірка встановило, що будівельникам столичного залізничного мосту над Видубицьким автовокзалом заборгували понад 100 тисяч гривень зароблених коштів. 13 серпня будівельники перекривали міст на «Видубичах».

Лише після цього відкрили кримінальне провадження, й прокуратура підтвердила, що «посадові особи, незважаючи на наявність коштів на рахунках підприємства та в порушення вимог законодавства, понад півроку не виплачують своїм підлеглим заробітну плату. Крім того, посадовці підприємства умисно викривляли статистичну звітність щодо вказаної заборгованості, внаслідок чого протягом тривалого часу уникали відповідальності», – повідомив начальник відділу управління правозахисної діяльності, протидії корупції та злочинності у сфері транспорту столичної прокуратури Дмитро Чібісов.

Профспілка «Серп і молот» підтримала мостобудівників. Керівник профспілки Віталій Махинько розповів Радіо Свобода про механізм накопичення заборгованості й наголосив, що ця ситуація є типовою.

«Люди працювали протягом 3-5 років. Живуть ці люди не у Києві, а приїжджають на вахту. Середня зарплата десь 2,5-3 тисячі гривень за вахту. Відпрацювали, а їм дають лише по тисячі гривень, і то не усім, і вони їдуть додому. Так і накопичилася ця сума боргу», – каже Махинько.

За словами Віталія Махинька, українські громадяни досі не розуміють, що чим довше вони мовчатимуть про порушення їхніх трудових прав, тим менше їм платитимуть і тим у гірших умовах вони працюватимуть.

Особливу проблему складає нелегальне працевлаштування, коли не оформляють ніяких документів. Найчастіше цим «грішить» дрібний бізнес, коли неофіційно наймають людей для роботи у кіосках та на ларках.

PHOTOS -- 10:24 am Creations

Entrance to the fairgrounds

Over 10,000 celebrate Independence Day in Toronto

(UkrNews)—Over 10,000 attended the celebration of the 22nd anniversary of Ukraine's independence at Toronto's Centennial Park, Aug. 24.

The event, which was organized by the Toronto Branch of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, started with a soccer tournament followed by the opening of the fairgrounds

This was followed in turn by the Children's Concert on Main Stage, a VIP Reception in the Chalet, the Official Opening on the Main Stage, the Ukraynska Zirka Finals Competition, the Stage Dance Show on Main Stage and a Zabava

Other activities included a Children's corner – games, arts and crafts, draw for bicycles; Teen's activities – Kozak Games; Chess Tournament; Photo Booth; Market place – souvenirs, embroidery, honey, garlic, jewelry, and flea market; and a Food and Licensed Beverage Court.

Ukrainian Dance Ensemble "Barvinok"

Dignitaries at the event included: Hon. John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Brad Butt, MP Mississauga-Streetsville; Stella Ambler, MP Mississauga South; Bob Dechert, MP Mississauga-Erindale; Peggy Nash, MP Parkdale-High Park; Olivia Chow, MP Trinity—Spadina; Ted Opitz, MP Etobicoke-Centre; Bernard Trottier, Etobicoke-Lakeshore; Frank Valeriote, MP Guelph; Tim Hudak, Leader of Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario; Doug Holyday, MPP Etobicoke-Lakeshore; Darmela Dipika, MPP Mississauga East-Cooksville; Art Eggleton, Senator for Ontario; Borys Wrezysnewskyj, Former MP Etobicoke-Centre; Yvan Baker, Liberal Candidate for Etobicoke-Centre; Yuri Shymko, Former UWC President and MP, MPP; Marika Szkambara , World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations and UCC Toronto Past President; Natalyia Popovych, Ukrainian Canadian Women's Council, Toronto Branch; Marion Barszczyk, Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of Canada; Slawko Borys, Ukrainian National Federation of Canada, Toronto Branch; Valentina Kuryliw, Holodomor Education Chair; Bohdan Onyshchuk, Canada Ukraine Foundation; Orest Steciw, League of Ukrainian Canadians; Tanya Sunak, Ukrainian Canadian School Board

Marta Shpak, Merited Artist of Ukraine, and Ukrainian School of Dance "Ukraina"

Spruce Grove Councillor Wayne Roth (left) presents a commemorative plaque to St. Michael's Board Chair Ed Hladunewich

Grove Manor celebrates 10th anniversary

(UkrNews)—St. Michael's Grove Manor celebrated its 10th anniversary by hosting a reception at the facility for the residents and their families, friends and local supporters, Aug. 23.

Grove Manor is located in Spruce Grove, 30 kilometres west of Edmonton.

Written greetings were provided by federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose, MP for Edmonton Spruce Grove and provincial President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance Doug Horner, MLA for Spruce Grove-Sturgeon-St. Albert.

Personal greetings were delivered by Parkland County Councillor Phyllis Kobasiuk, Spruce Grove Councillor Wayne Roth, St. Michael's CEO Stan Fisher, Vicky Beauchamp on behalf of the Friends of St. Michael's of Edmonton Society, Barb Meyers on behalf of resident families and Michelle Rose, manager of Grove Manor.

The greetings were followed by resident recognition and staff recognition; resident entertainment; a cake celebration; slideshow presentation and tours of Grove Manor.

Grove Manor received its first resident on November 21, 2003 and officially opened on May 21, 2004.

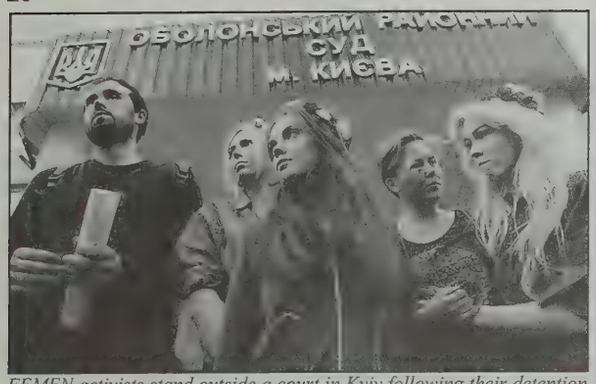
"This project was made possible because of the vision of administration at St. Michael's, but it became a reality because of the financial cooperation of the Alberta Seniors and the open arms of the City of Spruce Grove", stated Ed Hladunewich, Chair of the St. Michael's Extended Care Centre Society at the time.

The seniors Supportive Housing facility of 71 suites (82 Residents) was fully occupied at its opening and had a waiting list. Each suite was equipped with a complete kitchenette, individual room temperature controls, non-slip vinyl flooring, and low pile carpeting.

St. Michael's Grove Manor has a total area of 50,000 square feet and was built for $5.7 million. Alberta Seniors contributed $2,255,000 for capital, with the balance was funded by the St. Michael's Health Group, and a commercial mortgage.

Ukrainian News is now available at the following locations in Edmonton:

Chateau Louis Hotel
Continental Inn
Meest - Edmonton
St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church



FEMEN activists stand outside a court in Kyiv following their detention in August during Kyivan Rus celebrations. Police on Aug. 27 searched the office of the women's rights group to check for weapons and explosives.

FEMEN alleges that police planted pistol, grenade

By Christopher J. Miller, *Kyiv Post*

Ukrainian feminist group FEMEN reported on Aug. 27 that Kyiv police, acting on an anonymous tip, had entered its headquarters to search for "weapons and explosives."

A FEMEN statement posted to its website reads that the police blocked the office and waited for the arrival of Interior Ministry special forces before searching the office.

According to Kyiv police's press service, law enforcement and explosives experts found and seized a TT pistol and a grenade.

In a statement, FEMEN says it has never possessed weapons, explosives or narcotics. "If drugs or toxic substances, contraband or weapons are found inside the headquarters of FEMEN, it is a provocation by Ukrainian authorities," reads the statement.

The raid occurred hours ahead of a scheduled visit by FEMEN to the French Embassy to discuss paperwork associated with members' plans to travel to Paris, FEMEN leader Alexandra Shevchenko told the Kyiv Post by phone as she, FEMEN founder Anna Hutsol and activist Yana Zhdanova were being held at a Kyiv police station and awaiting questioning.

They had not been placed under arrest, she said, adding that the raid was a farce.

"When I saw how they were searching, it was like a show, a scene from a movie, and the police and SBU were like actors — they came in, and skipped two rooms and went almost exactly to the spot where they uncovered a (grenade)," she said. "These items were clearly planted."

Joseph Paris, a filmmaker and FEMEN videographer currently working on a documentary about FEMEN France, posted videos on YouTube of the search that Shevchenko had taken with her mobile phone and sent to him.

In the videos police can be seen using bomb detection equipment and a bomb-sniffing dog to look for explosives.

Police also are seen laying out a gun next to images of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Orthodox Church Patriarch Kirill with crosshairs depicted on them, which they reportedly uncovered during the search. The latter had the words "Kill Kirill" scrawled across it.

Despite law enforcement's findings, the group maintains that it is a peaceful movement.

"We've never had weapons and never planned armed attacks. We are not a terrorist group. We consider these actions as pressure and repression," Hutsol told online news website Ukrainska Pravda.

Opposition supporters march on Independence Day

(Interfax-Ukraine)—The opposition held a ceremonial march to mark the 22nd anniversary of Ukraine's independence, Aug. 24.

Opposition supporters unfolded two large flags — the state flag and the flag of the European Union.

The column was headed by the chairman of the Batkivschyna faction in parliament, Arseniy Yatseniuk, as well as Batkivschyna MPs Oleksandr Turchynov, Borys Tarasiuk, Viacheslav Kyrylenko, Vitaliy Yarema, Oleksandra Kuzhel, Oleksandr Abdulin, Olena Kondratiuk and Mykola Martynenko.

The participants in the march were chanting "Freedom to Yulia," "Down with the Gang," and "Ukraine above All!"

According to the organizers, the rally was attended by about 3,000 people.

Participants marched from Mykhailivska Square along Volodymyrska Street to the monuments to Mykhailo Hrushevsky and Taras Shevchenko, where they laid flowers.

The dam in the southern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhya is shown after being blown up by Stalin's secret police in 1941. From 20,000 to 100,000 people died in the ensuing flood.

Ukrainian activists draw attention to little-known WWII tragedy

By Dmytro Moroz and Claire Bigg

(RFE/RL)—In 1941, as Nazi German troops swept through Soviet-era Ukraine, Josef Stalin's secret police blew up a hydroelectric dam in the southern city of Zaporizhzhya to slow the Nazi advance.

The explosion flooded villages along the banks of the Dnipro River, killing thousands of civilians.

As Europe marks its Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism on August 23, a handful of Zaporizhzhya residents are battling for the recognition of the little-known wartime tragedy.

The day, which is also known as Black Ribbon Day outside Europe, coincides with the anniversary of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of nonaggression between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

Ukraine suffered heavy losses both during World War II and under Stalin.

The Zaporizhzhya events took place in August 1941. As Nazi troops approached the city, Moscow sent in agents from the NKVD, the predecessor of the KGB, to blow up the city's DniproHES hydroelectric dam.

The team successfully carried out its secret mission — which historians say was ordered by Stalin himself — tearing a hole in the dam and temporarily cutting off part of the city from the invaders.

But the explosion also flooded villages and settlements along the Dnipro River.

The tidal surge killed thousands of unsuspecting civilians, as well as Red Army officers who were crossing over the river.

Since no official death toll was released at the time, the estimated number of victims varies widely. Most historians put it at between 20,000 and 100,000, based on the number of people then living in the flooded areas.

Survivor Oleksiy Dotsenko says the Dnipro turned red that day.

His account, recorded four years ago by the television channel 1+1, is one of the last remaining testimonies of the tragedy.

"People were screaming for help. Cows were mooing, pigs were squealing. People were climbing on trees," he recalled.

Many Zaporizhzhya residents, however, are still unaware of the disaster.

Local historians and rights activists accuse city authorities of perpetuating Soviet-era efforts to cover up the truth by refusing to honor the victims.

Officials acknowledge that innocent civilians died but defend the dam's destruction as a necessary measure that helped save countless lives.

"There was no one at the time to defend Zaporizhzhya," says Oleksiy Baburin, the head of the Ukrainian Communist Party's regional branch. "We had very few soldiers. There were almost no NKVD troops or military regiments who could have stopped the Germans. This is why blowing up DniproHES allowed for the evacuation to continue."

But a number of historians reject such claims, insisting that the operation was poorly timed and that Nazi troops had no immediate plans to seize the city.

Historian Vladyslav Moroko says the men in charge of the mission, Boris Epov and Aleksandr Petrovsky, rushed the dam's explosion due to their fear of Stalin.

"In reality, Epov and his subordinates were concerned less by the possible German invasion of Zaporizhzhya than by the fact that they may not be able to carry out Stalin's order," Moroko says. "They were afraid that DniproHES would be captured and that they would not be able to carry out Stalin's order."

A monument close to the hydroelectric station, which is still in use, pays tribute to the troops that defended the facility during World War II.

A group of local residents this year put up a commemorative wooden cross in Zaporizhzhya on August 18, the anniversary of the DniproHES tragedy.

But there is still no official monument or plaque in the city to honor its victims.

Moroko and others have written an open letter urging city authorities to right this wrong. The letter went unanswered.

"This petition was public. Civil organizations and citizens responded to it and expressed their support," Moroko says. "But the government is acting like it never happened."

Written by Claire Bigg based on reporting by RFE/RL Ukrainian Service correspondent Dmytro Moroz

Ukrainians prefer EU to Customs Union

(Interfax-Ukraine)—More people in Ukraine support their country's integration into the European Union than joining the Customs Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, according to a study conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and the sociological service of the Razumkov Center from May 17 to May 22, 2013.

According to the survey, 42 percent of respondents chose Ukraine's accession to the EU, when asked which direction Ukraine should move, and 31 percent of respondents chose the Customs Union with Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Some 13 percent said that Ukraine should not join either the EU or the Customs Union, and 13.7 percent were undecided.

A third of respondents also said that they consider themselves to be Europeans. In particular, when asked whether Ukrainians feel Europeans, 10 percent answered "definitely yes," 24.3 percent - "most likely yes," 29.1 percent - "most likely not," and 25.9 percent - "definitely not." Some 10.7 percent failed to answer.

In addition, 40.5 percent of respondents said that it would be better if everything remained in Ukraine as it had been in the Soviet Union until 1985.

At the same time, 39.3 percent did not agree with that, and 20.2 percent were undecided.

A total of 2,010 respondents aged over 18 from all regions in Ukraine were interviewed. The poll's margin of error is 2.3 percent.

How powerful is the Pro-Russian lobby in Ukraine?

By Maksym Bugriy

(Jamestown Foundation)—New initiatives supporting Russian economic and political objectives keep emerging in Ukraine as the date of the expected signing of the Association Agreement with the European Union at the November 28–29 EU Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius approaches. On August 9, the leader of the Ukrainian Communist Party, Parliamentarian Petro Symonenko, told Golos Rossiyi that the Communists would begin a campaign to collect four million signatures (a three million threshold is required) for a referendum for Ukraine to integrate into the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) and the Customs Union, and not into the European Union.

Russian leaders and think tanks close to the Kremlin support these public efforts, which appear to be lobbying to restrain Ukraine from its Western integration path. The Moscow-based Gorchakov Fund for the Support of Public Diplomacy, which describes itself as a "public-private partnership" to promote Russian foreign policy objectives, serves as one of the key sponsors of this activity. In June – July 2013, the Gorchakov Fund supported the Eurasian Youth Camp Forum in the Crimea, a geopolitics conference in Odessa, and several other policy events in Russia and Belarus, where Ukrainian representatives participated. These events clearly promote the Russian policy of Ukraine's Eurasian integration, which also means Kyiv's actual subordination to Moscow's power in relations with the EU. Some of the major pro-Russian events in Ukraine were held in Kyiv: Russian President Vladimir Putin, on his July 27 visit to Ukraine to celebrate the Baptism of Kyivan Rus, attended a roundtable sponsored by his Ukrainian supporter Viktor Medvedchuk's "The Ukrainian Choice" organization. But Russia also aims to arouse public opposition to Ukraine's association with the EU in predominantly Russian-speaking regions of eastern and southern Ukraine, including Crimea. These regions, in fact, constitute Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych's electoral base.

A controversial feature of Putin's Ukrainian policy is the use of economic coercion and the neglect of incentives and relevant "soft power" tools to spur Ukraine's economic integration with the Customs Union of Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, or selling Ukrainian natural gas pipelines to Gazprom. Russia's main policy instruments are unsophisticated trade barriers to reduce Ukrainian exports. Interestingly, the Kremlin directs such trade sanctions against the very representatives of the Ukrainian business elite who are deeply involved in trade and business with Russia and are friendly to this country: Viktor Pinchuk (steel pipes), Petro Poroshenko (confectionery), Anatoliy Yurkevych (dairy products). As a result, the pro-Russian business lobby in Ukraine is today weaker than at the beginning of Yanukovych's presidency.

Illustratively, during the open Parliamentary Hearings on Ukrainian Economic Relations with the EU and the Customs Union on May 19, 2011, some representatives of Ukrainian big business, including the car manufacturer Ukravto and refrigerator maker Nord, spoke in favor of Ukraine's membership in the Customs Union. But such voices are muted today. Fears that Russia would easily acquire important sectors of the Ukrainian economy — the nuclear power industry, aerospace or shipbuilding—have also not materialized. Kost Bondarenko, the director of the Ukrainian Policy Institute, thinks that the pro-Russian business lobby is "situational" and not a stable entity. While Analyst Michael Gonchar of the Nomos Center commented to Jamestown that Ukraine's political lobby supportive of Russian business interests is often inefficient. Gonchar thinks that the reason is the Russians' "why pay more?" attitude and the desire to acquire Ukrainian assets cheaply. He believes, however, that in certain long-term operations a pro-Russian lobby is strong and capable of reaching success, citing the example of Ukraine's failed alternative Odesa-Brody oil pipeline.

Pro-Russian lobbyists in Ukrainian politics and government seem more proactive. Viktor Medvedchuk, a seasoned, shrewd Ukrainian politician and the former head of President Leonid Kuchma's administration in 2002–2005, has emerged at the center of the action. On August 6, the deputy head of the Party of Regions parliamentary faction and advisor to the prime minister, Oleg Tsarev, told Forbes Ukraine that if Ukraine signs the Association Agreement, Vladimir Putin will not support Viktor Yanukovych in the 2015 presidential elections. Moreover, according to a "tough scenario," Putin might endorse Medvedchuk or another alternative candidate to Yanukovych. Tsarev further suggested that a group of Rada deputies could appeal to the Constitutional Court, challenging that the Association Agreement with the EU contradicts the Ukrainian Constitution. Tsarev's comments prompted negative reactions from representatives of the Party of Regions and the Ukrainian justice ministry.

Even though Vladimir Putin's endorsement of Viktor Medvedchuk seems natural, it is not very likely as Medvedchuk is not popular enough to win the presidency in such a short time before spring 2015. Generally, it seems difficult for the Kremlin to rely on an alternative to the current Ukrainian president. Kost Bondarenko, speaking to Jamestown on August 12, suggested Russia's strategy is rather to have a pro-Russian group in the Rada after the 2017 parliamentary elections and then focus on endorsing a pro-Russian presidential candidate in Ukraine's 2020 elections.

In addition to parliamentarians, pro-Russian statements and public appearances also come from some high-ranking Ukrainian public servants — a sign of disagreement within the pro-Yanukovych elite, as well as characteristic of the presidential administration's "fence-sitting" policy. The latest example is the announced participation of Ukraine's Representative to the Eurasian Economic Commission Viktor Suslov and Government Representative on Cooperation with Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States and EurAsEC Valeriy Muntian in an Expert Group to be created by the new pro-Russian public movement "OKEAN," which supports Ukraine's membership in the Customs Union. Speaking to Jamestown on July 26, Parliamentarian Volodymyr Kurennoy (UDAR party), a member of the Verkhovna Rada Foreign Affairs Committee, commented that at least two distinct groups influence Yanukovych's politics and government elite: the first is a pro-Russian group associated with Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, while the second one is not exactly pro-European, but rather supportive of a pragmatic "multi-vector" foreign policy and is associated with the head of the presidential administration, Serhiy Lyovochkin. Kurennoy thinks that currently, the real influence of the pro-Russian group, as well as Azarov's influence is "close to zero."

While to date, the pro-Russian lobbyist activity in Ukraine seems generally ineffective to alter the country's course, their influence cannot be underestimated. At a minimum, such activity increases the costs for the Ukrainian government to pursue a pro-Western policy. And in the medium term, Russia may increasingly rely on Ukrainian Eurosceptic power players, who will inevitably gain political weight as Ukraine works to accommodate Europe and the West.

Yanukovych Holodomor Remembrance motives questioned

(Interfax-Ukraine)—The decision of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych to declare November 23 Holodomor Remembrance Day is driven by a sharp fall in the popularity of the Ukrainian leader and his intention to draw voters from the western regions into his constituency for the next presidential elections, CIS Institute Deputy Director Vladimir Zharikhin said.

"This decision shows a certain amount of panic among the leaders of the Party of Regions. Regardless of his flirtations with voters oriented towards the West, the popularity of Yanukovych has fallen sharply mostly in western regions and partially among Kyiv citizens," Zharikhin told Interfax on Aug. 20.

The sociological data show that Yanukovych had lost so much popularity that he would lose the next presidential elections to all of his supposed rivals, Zharikhin said.

"According to the information of the latest polls, he would lose to all probable candidates in the second round of voting in hypothetical presidential elections. Apparently, the panic of the [Party of the] Regions' leaders has led to attempts to behave more like western Ukrainians in order to attract the support of the western regions," Zharikhin said.

These attempts to win over voters in western Ukraine in such a fashion are destined to fail, Zharikhin said.

"This will give them nothing. Western Ukraine already has its heroes – [Vitali] Klitschko, [Yulia] Tymoshenko. It is the leader of Svoboda, [Oleh] Tiahnybok, for most radical voters, not Yanukovych in any way," Zharikhin said.

It was recently reported that Yanukovych had signed a decree "On Events amid the 80th Anniversary of Holodomor in Ukraine in 1932-1933," which gave the executive agencies the task of commemorating the victims of the famine.

PM-level talks fail to fix trade issues

(Ukrainian Journal)—Russia and Ukraine failed to find compromises at trade talks on Aug. 26, increasing the possibility of a massive trade war between the two countries later this year.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov traveled to Moscow for the talks with his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev to sort out problems after Moscow had blocked imports of Ukrainian goods the previous week.

Azarov has been seeking to persuade Medvedev not to impose any trade sanctions against Ukraine in the event that Kyiv signs a free trade deal with the European Union in November.

"I find it pointless to continue the talks on this issue," Igor Shuvalov, Russian deputy prime minister, said quoted by the Russian state-owned news agency RIA Novosti. "The Ukrainians want to find a format that would be compatible… but it would be impossible to agree on a single customs tariff because they are absolutely bound" by the EU free trade deal.

The worries over the possible trade war between Ukraine and Russia rose after Russian President Vladimir Putin said recently that Russia will resort to sweeping restrictions against Ukrainian goods if Kyiv signs a free trade and political association agreements with the European Union.

The protectionist rhetoric came only days after Russia lifted its restriction imposed against Ukrainian goods the previous week.

The restrictions, which amounted to a de-facto blockade of the Ukrainian goods at the border, were politically motivated to prevent Ukraine from signing the agreements with the EU in November, Ukrainian politicians said.

Putin's comments echoed those recently made by his chief trade advisor, Sergei Glaziev, that Moscow will implement tougher trade sanctions if Ukraine makes "suicidal" move to sign the EU agreements.

Moscow has been persistently encouraging Kyiv to drop the EU agreements and instead to join the Customs Union, a Russia-led trade bloc that also includes Kazakhstan and Belarus.

The European Union called it "unacceptable" for Russia to economically threaten Ukraine, linking the threat with a possible signature of the association agreement with the EU.

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2,000 attend this year's Music Fest at Village

(UkrNews)—Two thousand attended this year's Music Fest 2013 — a unique blend of traditional and contemporary Ukrainian-Canadian musicians in live concert presented by the Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society, at the Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village, located 50 kilometres east of Edmonton, Aug. 25.

As an added feature this year, a dance floor was set aside for those who wished to trip the light fantastic.

"We did actually rent the dance floor this year to promote dancing and we're try next year to make it a permanent one," Nick Fedchyshyn, President of the Friends Society told Ukrainian News.

Fedchyshyn said he hopes to have regular Saturday or Friday night dances at the Village's Red Barn, which would allow the facility to be open all year round.

"We will probably have to get government approval but I think we can do that," he added.

The live concert, presented and hosted by 790 CFCW's Steven Chwok, featured an array of musicians.

The line-up included: Alicia and Stephen Slusarchuk, Andrij Hornjatkevyc – Bandurist, Chwill Brothers Band, Chychul Orchestra, Diamonds Band, Dynamics, John Bandura & Friends, Millenia and guest Jimmy Wacko, Mitchell Palahniuk, Paul Kobasiuk & Friends, Polka Ramblers, Sparkling Tones Band, Starlites Band and Victor Holubowich & his Royal Lites.

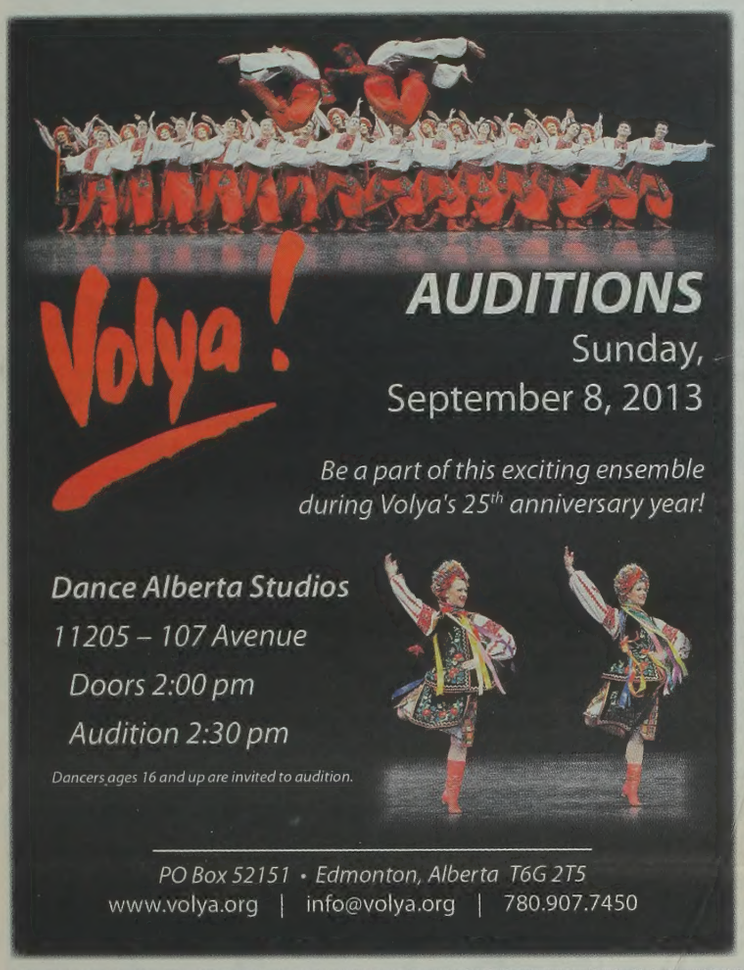
Another feature was the Ukrainian Canadian Music Workshop, sponsored by FolkwaysAlive!, which was an opportunity for aspiring and seasoned musicians to gather under the direction of Millenia band.

The seventh annual Kalyna Idols competition, co-presented by Kalyna Country Ecomuseum, took place in the Village courtyard stage. This singing competition showcases the region's best young singers. New this year, the winner in each category was invited to perform in the afternoon concert at the band shell stage.

The musical entertainment on the Courtyard Stage (was led by Master of Ceremonies Terry Triska and included FolkwaysAlive! Ukrainian Canadian Music Workshop performance; Alicia & Stephen Slusarchuk; The Dynamics and The Nighthawks'

Exhibitors at the Red Barn included the Friends of the Ukrainian Village Society , the Northern Alberta Wood Carvers Association, St. Andrew's Ukrainian Language Classes for Adults, Andrew Garlic Festival and the Edmonton Accordion Association.

Wagon ride and other authentic activities in the historical village allowed visitors of all ages to share a sense of the Ukrainian settler experience in east central Alberta in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A village market with courtyard musicians, and children's activities such as a jumpy slide and face painting, completed this entertaining day for all the family.



PHOTOS – MARCO LEVYTSKY

Top: Chychul Orchestra; Bottom: Andrij Hornjatkevyc – Bandurist,

Kashtanov retains title

(Costa Rica Star)--Ukrainian pugilist Stanyslav Kashtanov is still the World Boxing Association (WBA) Super Middleweight Champion after Jaime "Indio" Barboza from Costa Rica failed to take his belt.

It was a great night for boxing for 30,000 fans in the Donbas Arena in Ukraine, a country that is producing quite a few luminaries of the sweet science such as the heavyweight Klitschko brothers. For Kashtanov, a 29-year old fighter with 31 wins and one loss, the first defense of his title was supposed to be pretty easy. In the end, it took him 10 rounds and considerable effort to ensure that the Costa Rican challenger did not come away victorious.

With British heavyweight legend Lennox Lewis presiding as special guest, the fight started out with four rounds of quality boxing. The defender had the clear height and reach advantage, but Indio applied a smart plan of attack to overcome this difficulty. The first four rounds were even, but by the fifth round the local favorite was encouraged by the crowd to show the visitor from Costa Rica why Ukrainians are respected fighters.

Kashtanov stepped up his attack on Indio, who responded with taunts that tested the crowd's patience. The boxer from Guapiles, who was born in 1978, has been fighting since 2003. Indio brought a lot of heart to the ring, but by the seventh round the champ had him figured out. A solid kidney punch sent Indio to the canvas, and a cut to his tongue began to bother him. The fight was turning in favor of the defending champ.

By the eighth round, Kashtanov was scoring points with solid punch combos, but he was a bit worried that his opponent from Costa Rica had adopted a Mexican fighting stance of taking punishment with toe-to-toe strong retaliation. They exchanged punches in the exciting eighth and ninth rounds, but after a series of right jabs and an uppercut from Kashtanov, Indio took a knee while the referee gave him an eight-count in the tenth round. He did not stand up and thus the Ukrainian won by knockout; the crowd cheered loudly.

Minutes after the bout, an out-of-breath Kashtanov told ringside reporters:

"I recognize my rival's honor; he pushed me to give it my very best."

Indio Barboza explained that his cut tongue was a problem throughout the fight. He expects a quick return to Costa Rica to be with his family and get back to the gym for training. He is the fifth Tico fighter to challenge a world boxing champ.

Chisora targets "unfinished business" with Klitschko

(ESPN)—Dereck Chisora has vowed to win the European heavyweight title before mounting a challenge to world champion Wladimir Klitschko.

Chisora defeated the previously unbeaten Malik Scott at Wembley Arena in July and was subsequently put forward by the EBU as mandatory challenger to the European title.

The 29-year-old recently bumped into Klitschko while holidaying in Ibiza, but reports of a brawl between the two were quickly denied by the Ukrainian.

There is no shortage of history between 'Del Boy' and the Klitschko brothers; Chisora lost by unanimous decision to Vitali when fighting for the WBC title in Germany last year.

However, Chisora believes his experience combined with a rivalry to the pair should aid his chance of a shot at Wladimir's belts.

"I want to get hold of that European title, because that will set up a shot against Wladimir that I've been waiting on for two years," Chisora said.

"I told him when I bumped into him in Ibiza that we had unfinished business and that I was coming for his world title belts. He seemed nervous about my presence but told me that he's ready to make it happen.

"It's as bigger fight as any out there for him, with all that happened in Germany when I faced the elder brother [Vitali]. If I get hold of the European title then it makes me the natural opponent for him.

"He's much better facing me, a live opponent that will get the whole world's attention, rather than getting another body that won't come to win.

"It would be a very different fight to the Vitali fight, I'm a lot more experienced now, and experience was the only thing that beat me in that fight. It would be a very long night for Wladimir."

Chisora is next in action on September 21 against an opponent yet to be named, while Wladimir defends his titles against the undefeated Alexander Povetkin on October 5.

Swim champ Lisohor arrested in Liberia for kidnapping

(Interfax-Ukraine)—Two Ukrainian citizens, including world swimming champion Oleh Lisohor, have been detained by Liberia's national police force on charges of kidnapping and keeping captive a Ukrainian citizen.

According to the Web site of the Liberian newspaper Heritage, Lisohor together with his business partner Mykola Chernyshov kidnapped Ivan Slipchenko, who worked at a casino in Monrovia, the capital city of Liberia.

According to the newspaper, they kidnapped Slipchenko and held him locked up in an apartment for nine days after they learned that he was associated with criminal circles in Ukraine. Lisohor and Chernyshov claim that they intended to deport Slipchenko to Ukraine.

The Foreign Ministry told Interfax-Ukraine that they were checking this information.

Lisohor took part in three Olympics, and is a multiple world and European champion in swimming.

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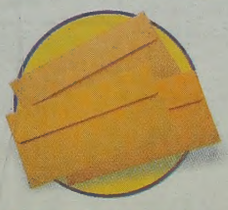
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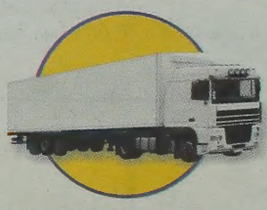
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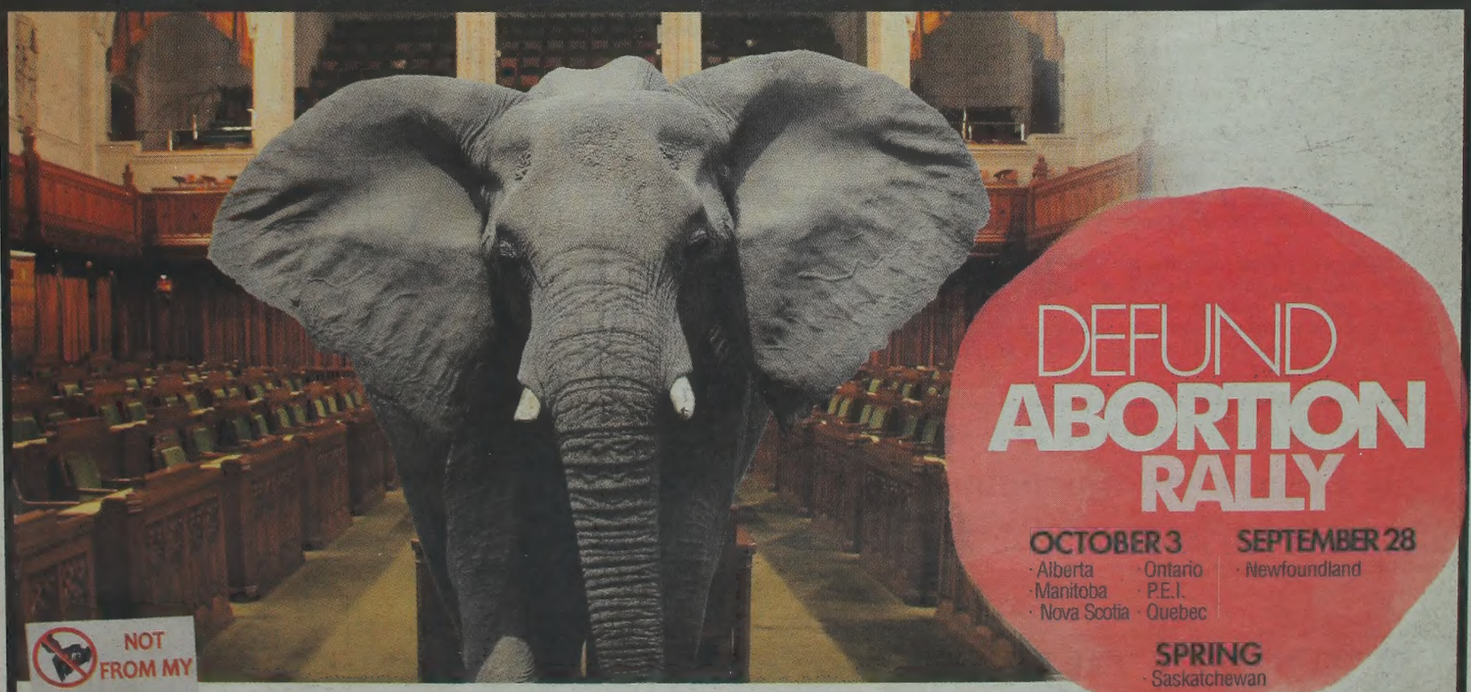

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